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THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,

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LIFE IN THE ITALIAN BOOT-HEEL.

Curious Customs of the People—The Woman Question Not as we See It.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

SOUTHEASTERN ITALY, February, 1870.

In a previous letter I began to give you a short account of the habits and customs of the people as lived in the Boot-heel, allow me then to take up the thread of my story and proceed.

I said that the Italian women worked so they do, diligently and continuously, with few exceptions. In addition to their household duties the poorer class to go the fields, bearing the burden equally with the stronger and the lazier portions of the male inhabitants. What do they do? Why in early spring, from January to March, they clear off the grain fields, preparing them for the summer crop. Here they call them corn fields, in accordance with the English custom of denominating all kinds of grain corn. They dig up the ground with a spade or broad bladed mattock, say about six inches broad, and for this they receive from ten to twenty-five cents per day. During the same time they trim up the grapevines. They do not train them to tall poles or frames as you might imagine, not even as they do in France, but they keep them cut off short to the root, depending on each year's growth for that year's crop of grapes. The custom is confined exclusively to Southeastern Italy, for nothing scarcely will strike the traveler so forcibly as the sight presented by the vines in Northern and Central Italy. Disregarding the Greek and German method of training the vines to short poles there, they train them up poplar and mulberry trees until they get about twenty feet high, then make them meet each other from tree to tree, forming in summer a beautiful arbor. It may be for utility, but I should think not, as the loss of the sun must injure the quality of the grape. To see them hung so high reminds one of the witticism of Cineas when drinking wine from Lalium. He said "he did not wonder that the mother of *such* wine was hung so high," alluding to the position of the vine. This kind of work commands about the same wages as the former.

From March until September the women are employed principally in the cultivation of cotton. They sow the seed, cultivate the plant with the hoe, and gather the cotton from the ripe bolls with their fingers. The cotton gin has not found its way to Italy.

If machinery were introduced, I cannot see why growing the cotton might not be made a lucrative business in this country; the climate and the soil appearing to be equally as good as that of the cotton fields of Georgia. The only thing I know to the contrary, the soil may lack the essential properties necessary for producing good cotton.

Even now they succeed tolerably well, perhaps better than they could from the means employed, I believe they furnish barely enough to supply demand, none being exported. The men do not pretend to pick the cotton, but one of the best informed men in the district informed me gravely that the work was *too hard* for men. Labor in the fields during picking season commands better wages than other work, men being usually from twenty-five cents to thirty cents per day. The work that demands the highest wages is the spreading of sulphur on the vines, when in the early spring. It is performed generally by women, and appears to be disagreeable work for the wages given; as, at times, it ranges from forty to fifty cents per day. Although I am aware that a willingness of women and children to work, I cannot say as much for the men. They seem to be united only to be *lazzaroni* and run errands. In fact, such seems to be my conclusions that they are lazy. But who has not heard of the "lazzaroni" of Italy? I do not wonder that they should be unwilling to work, when now one long day's work brings a high only eighty centimes, or sixteen cents.

As a rule the wages of men are higher than those of women. Why, who can tell? Not I, certainly. When contrasted with those of New England can give a fair reason why their female operatives receive less than their men, then it will do to come to less favored Italy and ask the why. The climate is the chief oppressor, the weak, and this is no where seen with such force as among the unenlightened and unchristian people. At home the question is met fairly, in many cases, by proving lack of preparation; but certainly here that excuse fails. I hold it a patent fact that the women of Italy surpass the men in energy, in ability and in their studious habits.

Here would appear to be an argument for some of the *strong-minded* of America.

One strange fact, as I am assured, is manifested in this country—you would think that there was no work for women, so *low* is the price, and wages so *low*, that certainly the supply must surpass the demand. But I am informed that such is not the case, for in this community, above, they say, two thousand more people could find employment, *could be*—if they could be obtained. What does this fact prove? First, that labor is conducted at a terrible disadvantage in respect to force, from lack of machinery. Secondly, that the miserably conducted this beautiful land would teem with plenty, bringing ease and comfort to the operatives, and extravagant wealth to the owners.

But light does begin to dawn. Plows from the North are coming Southward. Business is demanding more of Italian energy than for centuries it has had to exert, and it must be up and washed, or driven away. Oh! if the people would only *wash* what a godsend it would be to this heaven blessed country. Dirt and luxurious ignorance and crime, but the first the mother of them all.

In regard to the disposition of the women to work, my observations are not confined to this place. As far as I know, it is the same all over Italy.

At Naples I saw what I never had seen before, and although I profess some of the new fangled notions about *sexes* and *spheres*, yet I did not feel shocked at the sight.

It was just below my window in Hotel Washington, which stands close to the bay. The China was being prolonged farther down the harbors by fencing or walling out the waters of the bay. From the street, the work was all went on. With the first streaks of light began the endless clatter of hammers, slowly but regularly, all day through, until twilight. Great rocks were rolled into their appointed places, and buckets of mortar to make them secure. And by whom? By men and women. I had been prepared to see the women of Italy reduced to the servitude of a menial, but I had not gone so far as to see them bearing great rocks upon their heads as they were doing now, all day long, just below me.

Day after day I watched them, they handled the shovel as a skilled hand as easily as the men. Do you know the weight of mortar? If not, take a shovel and fill that hod but once; then you will be prepared to appreciate my feelings of surprise when I saw the women carrying the large shovelfulls so easily into the bucket, until filled, then seizing it, with perhaps one hand, and tossing it with consummate skill and apparent ease, mounting the ladder shaking it there upon a pal of old rags, they marched off firmly, climbed the ladder made rudely of round sticks for steps, and pitched out the contents as easily as a man, without even setting down the pail. To heave great rocks or bear them upon their heads seemed a small matter after this display of power.

After such facts, what would you expect of the women of Italy? When at home we may dream of black eyes and bewitching brunettes, but distance has lent enchantment. Close and personal contact dissipates the illusion. Misery and crime in my convictions that they are lazy. But who has not heard of the "lazzaroni" of Italy? I do not wonder that they should be unwilling to work, when now one long day's work brings a high only eighty centimes, or sixteen cents.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1870.

A FRENCH VIEW OF NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

On the twelfth of March the French Legislative body was the scene of a discussion of more than ordinary interest to the people of this country. Its subject was the French colonies, two of which, Martinique and Guadaloupe, form part of the West India Islands. All of us are more or less acquainted with the English colonial policy, and are always more or less concerned with debates in Parliament when the relations between the mother country and Canada or Jamaica happen to be the subject of deliberation. No two things are much more unlike than the English and the French colonial systems. While for many years the English policy has been more and more to let their colonies alone, allowing them to govern themselves, the French policy has been the reverse. The principle of centralization has been as rigorously maintained in the colonies as in France itself. At least this was the case until a quite recent period. Within the last few years some relaxation of the system has been admitted in Algiers, and the matter of debate on the occasion referred to above was the policy of making a similar change in other colonies. One of the most prominent members of the *Chambre*, who is also one of the most distinguished publicists in France, M. JULES SIMON, introduced the subject. He demanded the political assimilation of the colonies to the mother country, and maintained the propriety of the demand on the grounds of justice and advantage to the colonists. He denounced the French colonial organization as having for its end to prevent the manifestation of will on the part of the colonists, who enjoy neither liberty nor representation, nor any of the rights accorded by the constitution. He said:

> "We demand that the omnipotence or the governors come to an end and that liberty be re-established in every where wherever it has been lost. We admit that in certain colonies not yet settled in a definitive manner, where there is only a small number of Europeans, a special and peculiar government is required; but for other colonies, where civilization is possible and wherever possible it is legitimate and desirable, assimilation should be established. This is given as merely provisional. Even those who imposed it upon them promised them in the future representation and even universal suffrage. You have yourselves demanded for Algeria deputies; and it is time that citizens who have shown themselves worthy of freedom should be at length called to enjoy its benefits."

Much of the interest which for us attaches to M. SIMON'S speech, arises from the circumstance that the people for whom he demands liberty and universal suffrage, is a mixed population of white and black. He states that in 1849, a commission took the subject of suffrage in the colonies into consideration, and were deterred from recommending the bestowal of the right by the fear of negro ascendency over the proprietary portion of the people.

> "It was only a year since the slaves had become French citizens, slavery had had this rude consequence that it had not made men. We had created the rights of citizens, but not citizens to exercise them. Now the situation is no longer the same. That which the colonists feared in 1848, they fear no longer. The colonies have had a profound and eminent duty to perform in their interests, their duties; they have acquired the sentiment of justice. I demand an election by universal suffrage, because it is electing by universal suffrage, because it is electing by universal means. Universal suffrage, in fact, is one of the half measures."

M. SIMON then refers to the many numerously signed petitions in favor of universal suffrage from both the West India colonies. He states that the petitioners are not the freedmen, but the owners of the soil, the rich and prominent white men of the islands who ask votes for their former slaves. This, he says, is a fact of much significance in a country where the prejudices of caste are much more lively than they are in France. In fact, the prejudice of color is still so strong in the colonies that a man of mixed blood, however distinguished for merit he may be, on entering a company of Creoles of pure race, by his mere presence sometimes causes the withdrawal of scrupulous members of the party.

> "This prejudice so powerful, and I must say a little longer, though it has perpetual existence, is growing weaker day by day. It will be entirely exting-ished if you cease to give the colonists a sort of signification by giving to their vanity a small number of European, a special and peculiar government is required; but for other colonies where civilization is possible and wherever possible it is legitimate and desirable, assimilation should be established. This is given as merely provisional. Even those who imposed it upon them promised them in the future representation and even universal suffrage. You have yourselves demanded for Algeria deputies; and it is time that citizens who have shown themselves worthy of freedom should be at length called to enjoy its benefits."

M. SIMON'S speech was very favorably received by the legislative body, and there is no doubt that some of the measures recommended in it will be carried out by the Government. Both the proposed change in colonial administration, and the references to the subject of universal suffrage among the colored people of the islands, are, or ought to be, interesting to us in this country.

OBELIE ANTOINE THE FIRST.

In the MONROE doctrine, it is assumed that we feel peculiar interest, whether for our own sake or for theirs, in all the populations of the American continent. Consistency would seem to require that we should, then, keep a sharp and intelligent eye upon all political movements that take place upon this terrestrial hemisphere from the extreme North to the extreme South. Were Mr. SEWARD still in power, we may be sure *he* would not be indifferent to the inauguration of an empire under the sway of a Frenchman at the southern extremity of our continent—and we may safely take it for granted that Mr. FISH is becomingly on the alert in consequence of M. DE TOCQUENE'S return and resumption of his royal authority among the Araucanians. Every reader of Spanish American history must be familiar with the name and character of these Araucanian Indians. They inhabit an independent territory, two hundred miles long and from ninety to one hundred and eighty miles broad in the southern part of Chili, and are, probably, the most remarkable aborigines of this continent, perhaps the most remarkable of all the uncivilized or semi-civilized peoples in the world.

They are hospitable, generous, brave and devoted to liberty. In view merely of the evils produced by gold, they closed their mines as soon as they had expelled the Spaniards from their country. They cultivate poetry and eloquence. Their women are as bitter enemies of dirt as are their sisters of Holland—they sweep their houses several times a day, and all their household utensils are carefully washed immediately after being used. Readers of newspapers may remember how some years ago the Frenchman, whose name is given above, became King or Emperor of these strange people, and how much trouble he caused the Chilian Government. Not only in France, but in other parts of Europe and in America the adventurer was much talked about. A year ago or more, his majesty disappeared *from his dominions*, no one knew whither. But the Chilian journals, we are told, announce that M. TOUNENS has suddenly reappeared in Araucania at the head of a troop composed chiefly of Argentine Gauchos to resume possession of the royal authority with which, under the name of ORELIE ANTOINE the First, he was invested in 1860 by the united caciques of the Araucanians. His plan is said to be to unite Araucania and Patagonia under one crown, and thus form an Empire to be governed in the commercial and political interest of France. The movement may be of small importance and it is certainly very far away from us. But it is interesting as a contemporary instance of the sort of enterprise by which so many Frenchmen have distinguished themselves, and benefited or injured their country in the past. Every quarter, and nearly all countries of the world, have furnished fields in which such adventurers of France have figured with greater or less brilliancy and success.

SIMON CAMERON ON FINANCE.

It is not often that Mr. Senator CAMERON says anything worthy of notice in the Senate, but his remarks, as published in the *Globe*, against the Funding Bill, which lately passed the Senate, are so absurdly ridiculous that we think our Winnebago Senator is fairly entitled to honorable mention of them. The question was on an amendment offered by Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts.

It is one of the main causes of corrupt combinations. It is a constant temptation to bribery. It changes the halls of legislation into a public market, where private interests are bought and sold. It moves the political arena from the country to the capitol, and fills its halls with lobbyists. It creates local legislative issues that every year become thorns in the sides of party politics, and degrades great principles down to petty squabbles over some local legislative act. It retards the progress of a State, and will ultimately wear it out or destroy its influence and power. Its inevitable consequence is to imperil the welfare of State Government, by the controlling influence of wealthy monopolies. It drives honest men from the field, and opens a door for knavery. Every thinking mind must feel shocked at a review of the acts passed by our present Legislature. The array of local bills is terrific. Yet, should a representative, even from conviction, refuse to lend himself to this scheme of burthening our records with private laws, he will employ bitter means. A corporation or private interest that will seek to destroy his re-election, or embroil himself with some portion of his constituents. Happy for him if he gets off that easily. Too frequently his honor is assailed and bribery imputed to him. It is a poisoned leaven, never ceasing, always working in the body politic. A great State question arises. We select men to represent the principle that seems most conducive to State interests. But the directors of some city railway, or the proprietors of some coal bank, interview the candidate on the question of their respective interests; and if he ever is elected he steps his foot over the threshold hide-bound and in iron traces.

But arguments are not needed over the disadvantages of special legislation. Merit it has none. It is time our good ship was cleansed of these barnacles. Let us at the least diminish their number. A Constitutional Convention is our remedy. It may be easily reached, and would be eminently satisfactory. It would save many an hour of at present wasted time and labor, and many thousands of at present wasted dollars. For the sake of our State prosperity, give us this plain remedy for the present ills of special legislation.

NOT only in Cincinnati, but in several other important centers, the question of the Bible in the public schools has been lately under discussion as a matter of directly practical issue. It is worthy of notice that wherever the subject has been *much* discussed, the discussion has been started by the exclusionists. In regard to hardly anything established is there more entire unanimity than exists among Protestants as to the propriety and advantages of the use of the Bible in our common schools. Even the few who are willing to withdraw the Book in deference to the alleged conscientious objections of the Catholics, regret the assumed necessity. But looking upon our public school system as indispensable to the success of our democratic institutions, they are willing to surrender a non-essential feature of the system in order to save the system itself. There is not much danger, we think, that this view will be generally adopted. It is, we fancy, commonly understood by intelligent Protestants that even with Catholics the concession demanded will not save the schools. The exclusion of the Bible is merely one advance in the assault, a manœuvre for the attainment of a more comprehensive result. The demand did not originate, never would have originated with the Catholic laity. It is a priestly device. Let the Bible be withdrawn, and the schools will then seem to be exactly what the authors of this clamor affirm them to be, to wit: Godless schools. The thing wanted by the priests, the only thing that will satisfy them, is schools under their own supervision and control. We may say, by the way, that no well educated Catholic layman who knows what sort of education is imparted in the *popular* schools of Catholic countries, thus supervised and controlled, will ever desire it in this country for his children.

But those Protestants who favor the concession demanded, either forget, or are ignorant of another fact certain to be fatal to the schools. Even now there are many Protestants who do not regard the public schools as sufficiently under religious influences. They are reconciled to them as seminaries for their children, chiefly by the use of the Bible in them. Let the Bible be withdrawn, and multitudes of Protestants will cease to care for them, will join in the demand for their abolition, and for the establishment of sectarian schools. Thus this safeguard of our free institutions would perish.

DECIDED measures have at length been adopted for the collection of the pecuniary claims of the United States upon the Government of Venezuela. Some of these demands are old, it seems, of forty years standing. Notwithstanding his heavy debts, U. S. is rich, and therefore the fact just stated does not appeal so painfully to one's sensibilities as an English claim in Chancery of equal duration. A resolution offered in the House a few days ago by Judge OLIN and adopted, authorizes and directs the President to make a demand upon the Republic of Venezuela for immediate payment of the claims, and in case of neglect or refusal to make such payment, to employ the necessary naval and military force to secure funds. It seems worth while to call particular attention to this Congressional proceeding, as it is said to be the first action of the kind taken by our Government towards any foreign nation. It may also be worthy of notice in connection with the present condition of things in the country upon whose Government the demand is to be made. Of all the South American Republics it is perhaps the most unsettled and the most familiar with revolutions. Agitation is emphatically chronic there; Venezuela is always in a state of revolution. The freshest reports inform us that the army of *dissenters*, or rebels, many thousands strong, lately attacked the city of Laguayra. Having been repulsed with enormous slaughter in assaults, they marched upon and completely invested Puerto Cabello. President MONAGUS assembled troops in haste and set out for the relief of the threatened place. A battle was fought a few miles from Puerto Cabello, the result of which was not certainly known, though at Caracas, when the steamer departed, the impression was general that the revolutionists would be successful. Probably this notion was an inference from, or rather a presumption founded on the fact that, in those latitudes, such a termination of a conflict between the government and insurgents would be quite in accordance with the order of nature.

WE DO not feel disposed, at present, to pass upon any definite sins of omission or commission on the part of our legislators, whose term of service will expire on Thursday next, but cannot refrain from advising to the haste with which, at the termination of the session, bills are pressed through our Legislature. We are told that in one day the Governor returned to that body no less than twelve bills, which he found it necessary to veto, the whole batch being the creation of thoughtless and hasty legislation, some of these acts conflicting with the plainest provisions of the Constitution, and other usurping power which by general provision legitimately belongs to the courts. It is to be regretted that during the earlier portion of the session, our legislators squandered so much time in frivolous debate and useless personal wrangling to the neglect of more important action, and at the end are compelled to resort to that bane of all wholesome legislation—haste. We do not know that this Legislature is more to be censured in this respect than previous ones; it has always been a source of grievance, and it is time that the evil should be reformed. It is not our purpose to imply that we have not legislation sufficient—a cursory glance at those ponderous tomes which generally succeed the sessions, denominated "Acts of the General Assembly," and which are yearly increasing in size, would convince any one that we have entirely too much, but it is generally of a character that is not demanded by the welfare of the community at large, and much of it had better been left undone. The remedy lies in constitutional revision.

THE EVIL AND THE REMEDY.

MR. MAYNARD has introduced a joint resolution in reference to the collision of the steamers *Oneida* and *Bombay*. Mr. SCHENCK modified the resolution and asserted he was not at all certain but that the *Oneida* was in fault. One hundred and fifteen Americans, through atrocity almost unknown to civilization, have been actually murdered. After a miserable and partial investigation the officer of the *Bombay* was suspended for a short time. The evidence is conclusive against EYRE, the British officer. The *Oneida* was sighted at least two miles off, and from all the facts in the case it is beyond controversy that the act of the British officer was, as a seaman, unjustifiable, and as a man simply atrocious. If the purposes of this investigation are earnest in their nature, if the object that prompts the resolution is a determination to protect the women and children, whose husbands and fathers are doing duty for the nation, against such terrible results as this, we applaud the resolution. But if like too many of our "investigations," it is started for popular applause, and when only half done to be dropped, leaving the memory of our brave hearted and gallant sailors shadowed with doubts, which the confusion of the investigation has engendered, we pray it be abandoned at once. These illy performed duties on "resolutions," are cruelties to the living and cruelties to the dead. The nation claims Captain WILLIAMS and his associates as noble Americans. We guard their memory with a jealous distrust against such equivocal words as those used by Mr. SCHENCK. Out of respect for the memory of the men, who stood bravely at their post until the waters closed above them, we earnestly urge that should an investigation be undertaken, it will be pushed to a positive conclusion.

IN view of the action of the House of Representatives towards Venezuela, who owes us a debt which we propose to collect at the cannon's mouth, the intelligent reader naturally contrasts it with that of the Government towards England. Why doesn't the House Committee on Foreign Affairs agree to report a similar resolution in regard to Great Britain? Why does it not agree to authorize and direct the President to demand from that power immediate payment of the Alabama claims, and in case of a neglect or refusal on its part to comply with the demand, to use such portion of the army and navy to inforce the payment as, in his judgment, may be necessary for the purpose? Is it because the committee is afraid that, if it should do so, the British Lion would show his teeth in an unpleasant manner? Is it not because Venezuela is weak and Great Britain strong that the committee assumes such a valiant attitude towards the former and such a weak one towards the latter? Does it not seem so? Will not the world look upon it as being so? Can it be looked on in any other light?

THE returns from the late election in Cincinnati disclose some significant facts. There will be a small majority in the Board of Education in favor of the Bible in Common Schools. This result is accredited to the colored vote. In almost every instance where a ward went purely Republican a Bible candidate was elected. Where the ward was Democratic the Board of Education added another to their Anti-Bible vote. In the Thirteenth ward, largely Democratic, and composed mainly of the Irish foreign element, there were 250 negro votes cast On the Bible question the vote stood, Bible, 412; Anti-Bible, 695. In five wards the aggregate colored vote was 597. Of these 586 were Republican. We make no comments on such facts and figures. They need none. Speaking for themselves, they proclaim the unity of purpose in these colored men, their firm and faithful adherence to those principles that lifted off the weight they bent beneath for years, and their earnest desire to stand before the world with proud consciousness of approval in this, one of their first acts of manhood.

PRISON REFORM.

The Congress of Reformers in Cincinnati in September—Interesting Movement.

An important movement is now making on the question of Prison Discipline and Reform, which, from the number of subjects embraced for inquiry, may lead to very important results in this direction. A sub-committee meeting was held at Springfield, Massachusetts, last week, for the purpose of making arrangements for a grand Congress to be held at Cincinnati next September. Doctor Wines, of New York, reported that he had received letters from active co-workers in Europe, all of whom had promised to be present, and it was agreed to extend invitations to the following persons, who, if they could not be present, were to furnish papers on topics designated: Dr. Wichern, of the Raune Haus, near Hamburg; M. de Metz, of the Juvenile Reformatory, of Mettray, France; Baron Franz von Holtzendorff, of Prussia. Misses Mary Carpenter and Florence Nightingale; Sir Walter Crofton, ex-Recorder, M. D. Hill, and Edwin Hill, of England. Under the head of Prison Discipline a Prison Reform, a large number of questions are propounded for discussion, while the various subjects for consideration under the caption of "Reformatory and Penitentiary Science and Reformatory Work," present a wide field for the labors of the coming Congress, which will remain in session from Tuesday evening, September 20th, to the morning and afternoon session to be devoted to papers and discussions on prisons, and the evening session will be devoted to reports of societies. It was also resolved that formulas be prepared and sent out with the view of collecting, collating and spreading before the Congress and the country full statistics of the State Prisons, Penitentiaries, Houses of Correction and common jails of the United States.

Careless Legislation.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* comments on a text from the report of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives of Saturday last, by which it appears that the act relating to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railway was brought by that body as coming from the Railway Committee, but which had never been there, it subsequently transpiring that the original bill had, by mistake, come into the hands of the Printing Committee, where it was still, and a duplicate had been prepared and marked according to the usual system, and sent to the Clerk's desk, the extraordinary fact being developed that two bills, exactly similar, and both bearing the mark of the original, were before the House. This affords a strong illustration of the defects of the present system, which throws open the door to fraud, and should therefore be abolished. The substitution of a spurious Tax Receiver's Bill, applicable to the city of Philadelphia, for the one intended to be passed, is another case in which the glaring defects of the present mode is made apparent.

THERE are in great tribulation in Chicago about the gallery of the new Court House. It having gone to smash, the people are asking, what next? The *Builder*, a publication devoted to architecture and building matters, and things, and which ought to be good authority, calls attention to the roof of the Opera House, as one likely to meet the same fate as that of the new Court House. Another architectural picture, says the *Builder*, is unsupported by pillars, and held in place only by the surrounding walls. Beneath it, and intended to give it strength, is an interlacing mass of timbers, mortised into a sort of wooden plate resting on the top of the walls. These "mortises"—we use the *Builder's* description—"have either shrunk or rotted away to such an extent that iron bolts have been employed to hold the rapidly separating parts together and prevent the entire superstructure falling from its supports into the ceiling." We hardly need add that, if this mass does fall, it falls directly upon that space in the building which, six nights in the week and one afternoon, is filled with human beings. Is there any wonder that Chicago should be excited? Let up in Pittsburgh, where so many new buildings are going up, take warning.

By a happy coincidence, the United States Postoffice Department transferred the contracts for the transportation of the mails from the old to the new lines of ocean steamers just in time to avoid the losses of the mails by marine disaster. All the new vessels carrying the mails during the late severe storms were on their voyages, while those of the old lines which under the former contracts would have transported the mails, had been out long beyond the allotted time. Thus the City of Boston has been out seventy days, while the City of Brunswick which sailed from New York on the 28th ult., is the only one out, having lost her propeller and an entire suit of sails on her passage. The English mails are still sent here by Cunard and Inman lines, to which the Samaria and City of Brussels belong, of the disasters to which our readers are already apprised.

AN ill-natured bachelor has prepared a table showing the comparative number of males and for the different sexes, by which it is proved that the ladies consume a couple of millions more than the men, but an examination of the men's list is not at all complimentary to the sterner sex, which includes cigars, brandy, wine, cards and other means of wicked indulgencies, while the ladies' list is made up of such adornments as are highly creditable to their taste, good taste, and calculated to render "lovely woman" still more lovely. Here are the items:

Poor Man.		Lovely Woman.	
Cigars	$1,256,556 97	Ribbons	$2,240,799 58
Brandy, wine	5,121,862 80	Silk dress es	5,951,993 60
Playing cards	161,140 00	Jewelry fans	1,893,210 00
Liquors	104,438 12	Chignon hair	128,680 20
Lamb ale	20,319 00	Soap	71,219 50
Billiard chalk	209 50	Lily white	69,026 00
Total	$6,669,609 69	Total	$8,379,536 23

THE recurrence of "coal strikes" so frequently in May or June, or shortly before, at the most critical time, when large contracts are expected to be made, is regarded by our eastern neighbors as a suspicious coincidence which looks much as if they were deliberately gotten up in the interest of the great monopolies. These strikes have now become general, and the miners hold out for the next three or four months, coal will be unreasonably high-priced for many months to come, and the great companies will be the gainers. And the millions of tons already mined, will be hurried up, an the ground that they are not sure of a further supply, and when the present stock is nearly exhausted, the miners will go to work and the prices will recede. This is the experience of former years.

IT is said that the recent importations of tea from China have, to a large extent, been adulterated by the Celestials. Iron and steel filings are the ingredients used in the adulterations, and one sample analysed was found to contain an ounce and a quarter of iron to the pound. Pure tea is said to be scarce and difficult to procure. Who says the Chinese are not fast learning the arts of civilization?

THE sixty thousand dollars raised for the establishment of an Universalist College at Akron, Ohio, was subscribed by the citizens of that place alone, and the rest of the State has not been called upon yet.

UTAH IN A BLAZE.

The Polygamists and Monogamists Unite in Protesting Against the Cullom Bill.

The deep feeling which prevails in Utah in consequence of the passage through the House of the Cullom Anti-Polygamy bill, is a matter of general interest, as the question is surrounded with complications of a grave nature, and which may end in the most startling results. Advices received as late as the 28th ult. indicate a feeling not confined to the polygamists alone, but extending throughout Utah, embracing the monogamist portion of the Mormons as well as the Gentiles of the Utah community. The polygamists appear willing to submit to the law so far as it applies to the future, but its retrospective action they declare they will never submit to—they say they will never consent that their wives, whom they have married in accordance with a conscientious religious belief, shall be reduced to a condition worse than widowhood, or that their children shall be bastardized. Nor do they stand alone in this—they have sympathizers. A meeting was held in Utah, in which the Mormon polygamist and monogamist, as well as the Gentile, participated, which was remarkable for the sternness and determination of its spirit. A Mr. Kelsey, a prominent Mormon and a New Movement apostle, was called on and explained the situation. He contended that Congress had recognized their right to make such laws as seemed good to them, that Congress had left the people for fifteen years without any legislation on the peculiar institution practised by the Mormons as a religious duty, and for the first eight years after their arrival in the territory, Congress had appointed and sustained President Young, as Governor of the Territory, under laws organic which gave the right to amend any or all the acts of the Territory of Utah, yet they did not annul one single measure, but suffered every act to become law, and permitted it to stand upon the statutes. He added that for himself, as an individual, he did not feel it his privilege, right or duty to enter into new polygamic relations, in the face and protest of forty millions of fellow citizens. Mr. Tailage, associate editor of the *Mormon Tribune*, said that their duty was plain—to obey every law; that talking of resistance to the Government, to him seemed not only extravagant, but wrong in principle. They saw that polygamy was wrong; the sense of civilization was shocked at it, but they should ask the nation for humanity's sake not to martyr the women of the present as the women of the past had been martyred. They must obey the laws in future, but let Congress be considerate, just and merciful. Mr. Marshall, a Gentile lawyer, took similar ground, urging a conciliatory course towards the polygamists, and saying that although he was strongly opposed to polygamy and was in favor of the main features of the bill, he could not defend that it contained the right measures. Gen. Maxwell was present and expressed his unqualified disapproval of asking Congress for any such leniency, denying the assertion that they had been deceived and had winked at the practice of polygamy. Several other gentlemen expressed their views on the propriety of petitioning the Senate for modifications of the bill, after which a motion was made that a committee of seven gentlemen be appointed, which, after some discussion, reduced to three, were Judge Hoge, a Gentile merchant; J. M. Carter, lawyer; Col. Kahn, merchant; Warren Hussey, banker; Thomas Marshall, attorney; O. J. Hollister, Collector of Internal Revenue; R. F. Robertson, attorney. The memorial of the committee, who are all Gentiles, will immediately be forwarded by telegraph to the President of the Senate. This action of the Gentile committee is regarded favorably, though the orthodox Mormons fall back on their dignity and keep aloof.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It is stated in a recent report of the Prison Association, that of fourteen thousand five hundred and ninety-six prisoners confined in the Penitentiaries of thirty States, in 1867, seventy-seven per cent., or over ten thousand of the number, had never learned a trade.

The Anti-Slavery Society, which refused to disband of the suggestion of Mr. Garrison, six years ago, insisting that slavery was not really dead until the negro had his political rights, is now ready to break up since the Fifteenth Amendment has passed. It will close its career—a long and honorable one—with a grand jubilee meeting at New York, April 9th, whereat Wendell Phillips and many more will make speeches, and its organ, the *Anti-Slavery Standard*, will devote itself to the woman question and kindred matters of social and political reform.

Some weeks since, a certain Southern railway company negotiated $4,000,000 of its bonds in Europe, the exchange against which was drawn at the very time when the market in New York was at its lowest point. The bills could not be sold save at a great sacrifice, and so the brokers drawing them ordered the gold from Europe.

Official information has just been received in Washington that the French Government has arranged with the French Atlantic Cable Company to cancel its exclusive concession for landing cables from the Company's coast on French soil. The United States Government, or any citizen of our country, can therefore now land cables from the United States on French soil, in reciprocation of the privilege to the French to land cables on the soil of the United States.

The St. Paul *Daily Press* states that General Hancock has received orders from Washington to establish a new military post at Pembina, on the borders of Winnipeg. There may yet be serious trouble growing out of the relations of the Red River settlers, composed of the Hudson Bay Company, the British home government and the Dominion of Canada.

Forty-two years ago a young girl, now the wife of Mr. Joseph Bectal, residing in Ashland, Ohio, bought a fish of Joseph Charles, of Middleton township. It was served for breakfast, and Mrs. Bectal on eating of the fish got a bone in her throat about the size of an ordinary sewing needle and an inch in length. Physicians at the time expressed their opinions as to the great danger in submitting to a surgical operation when the removal to have it undertaken, and suffered on with the bone in her throat until Wednesday last, when, in a fit of coughing, the bone became loosened and flew out of her mouth, to her great joy and relief, after an affliction of forty-two years.

One of the most interesting and important engineering enterprises now on foot is the proposed railroad tunnel, for the transit of the cars of the Great Western and Michigan Central Roads, under the Detroit river. It is estimated that 2,000 men will be employed, one yards of excavation, 68,000 yards of brick masonry, exclusive of the drainage tunnel, and 3,700 yards of stone masonry. The complete cost for the eight-foot tunnel, with double track of steel rails, &c., ready for the running of the cars, is estimated at $2,650,000. A company is proposed with a capital of $3,000,000, which, it is said, will be completed within two hours after the books are opened.

At a recent sale of unclaimed baggage at an express office in Chicago, a large merchant's or rather dilapidated package that was offered at $1 35, and, upon investigating its contents, found them to consist of a bundle of song books and a fortunate lottery ticket, which was sold to an old negro standing near. Upon investigation the lottery ticket proved the holder to be entitled to $10,000, more or less.

A London paper says that "a profound astronomer predicts that this year there will be a comet of such brilliancy, so near to our earth, that we shall have our nights almost as bright as our days." This is good news for the benighted, who do not experience the blessings of light in their nights.

Divorces are not so easily granted in England as in Illinois, or that once so moral State Connecticut. The result is sometimes bigamy. A woman who pleaded guilty to that crime in Lincolnshire lately with the mitigating circumstances that the husband she left was brutal, lazy and immoral, was sentenced to one week's imprisonment.

Major Millinger, in a paper read before the Anthropological Society, tells us that "all the ladies in Constantinople are slaves except a few Turkish ones, who have any capital to invest becomes an importer of her own female circassian. The business is safe and profitable, for while slaves are a necessity to the Mussulman dynasty. It is contrary to the statutes of the empire for the heads of families to have in any but slaves, and in the Seraglio it is the Circassians who receive the best treatment and whose children attain the highest rank. Ultimately slavery bound up with the social and political system of Turkey that, in the redemption of Major Millinger, the extinction of the former must imply the destruction of the latter."

Some Ohio papers think the "confession" of Thomas D. Carr, that he had committed fourteen murders, was a hoax, and that he made it out of pure bravado, even when he could hear the sound of the workmen's hammers as they were building the gallows on which his miserable life was so speedily to end.

The Board of Trade election Monday, at Chicago, resulted in the choice of S. H. McCrea as President, by about 30 majority, in a total vote of 861. The Directors named on the Ramsey ticket were elected. The warehousemen brought all their strength to bear against Mr. Rumsey.

A Scandinavian preacher in Illinois sometimes preaches two or three hours. The service frequently begins at nine and closes at four. The doors are locked. Recently his congregation passed a resolution that he should only preach till 12 o'clock, but on the following remonstrances it was extended to two. What would the advocates of ten-minute sermons say?

The Boston *Transcript* puts the following suggestive query: "Is not Mr. Cullom's bill about polygamy similar in policy to advocating an expensive and hazardous blast of gunpowder, as a means of getting a vessel off Long Wharf in May—when the inevitable approach of August must soon accomplish the result quietly?"

A Washington letter expresses the opinion that the death of General Thomas has revived the hope of the new departure with the Republican party, and will necessitate the renomination of Grant. To Thomas it says the attention of the leading Republicans was turned for the continuance of power of an administration the promise of which had been fulfilled by Grant. Although little was said, the feeling was deep and widely extended.

The body containing the remains of George Peabody was broken into by thieves, recently, who carried off the silver mountings of his coffin. Could human ingratitude be more clearly illustrated?

There are at the present time four men imprisoned in Kentucky undergoing sentence for having aided slaves to escape prior to the war, one of whom has been there over ten years. There ought to be some way to get these men out.

STATE NEWS.

In the city and county of Philadelphia last year there were issued 4,507 licenses to sell liquors. This year the indications are that that number will be largely reduced.

Hon. W. L. Scott, of Erie, has reported to United States Assessor Gunnison an income for the year 1869 of $200,583. This does not include premiums from stocks, &c. The tax was paid previously, amounting to some $30,000 more.

A number of boys in Huntingdon the other day, who had doubtless witnessed the execution of Bohner and Bodenburg in that place, undertook to "play hanging," the result of a little chap who would have been hung if the rope had not parted.

The School Directors of Huntingdon county, in a spirit of unusual magnanimity, recently increased the salary of the County Superintendent fifty cents per annum—the salary now being $50.

A rich vein of coal has been discovered on Prospect Hill, Pymatuning township, Mercer county, and is said to be of great value.

Two new blast furnaces are to be built at West Middlesex, Mercer county, during the coming summer, and there is a rumor that a rolling mill will also be built there before long.

On last Saturday, Mr. George Howser, of Kittanning township, Armstrong county, while killing a hog with his daughter in a buggy near to her that the buggy was upsetting, and then fell therefrom dead. Heart disease, it is said, was the cause of his sudden death.

Waynesburg is to have a Masonic and Odd Fellow's Hall, to cost $14,000.

The farmers of Bucks county have reduced the rates of farm labor one dollar to one dollar and a half per month. In Bucks county farm hands are scarce, and the prevailing rates by the year or range between $150 and $200, with board furnished. By the month for summer work men can get from $20 to $25 with board.

The Washington *Star* says: There is a movement on foot in Pennsylvania to make Gen. Horace Porter, the gallant and accomplished, the next Republican candidate for Governor of that State. Aside from his own individual merits, which are neither few nor inconsiderable, he has been long and intimately related with the administration, and the fact that he is a son of ex-Governor Porter, an old time Pennsylvania favorite, would give him a *prestige* in the canvass which would insure success at the polls.

Wednesday evening, at ten o'clock, at the hotel of Isaac Houpt, in Bellefonte, a domestic let a lighted lamp fall to the floor. It was broken, and in an instant the unfortunate woman was enveloped in flames. Pittsburghers sleeping in the upper apartments rushed frantically down stairs on hearing the fire, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but not until the neighbors had been aroused, and the domestic referred to badly burned about the face, arms and lower limbs.

The Schuylkill miners are on a strike. There are 22,000 men and boys in Schuylkill county. The loss of wages for this number, calculating it at only $3 a week on the average, would amount to $220,000 a week. A stoppage of one week would require five weeks' work at an advance of $2 a week, and ten weeks at an advance of $1, to make up this loss.

The Avondale mine, Luzerne county, where in the terrible disaster of September last occurred, by which one hundred and eight men lost their lives, will be reopened this week and work resumed. The owners have built a new breaker at a cost of $80,000, and have provided against the recurrence of a disaster similar to that of last September by making a new opening, by sinking an air shaft, and by substituting a fan instead of a furnace for ventilating purposes.

Prof. T. C. Porter, of Lafayette College, and one of the most distinguished botanists of the country, has nearly completed his elaborate description of the entire flora of Pennsylvania, embracing the forest trees, grasses and weeds injurious to cultivation, and also observations on the geographical range and their economic value. This is the result of more than twenty-five years of learned labor on the part of this eminent scholar, and he now offers the whole as a donation to the State.

THE latest discovery at the bottom of the cup are three suffocated drunkards. The discovery was made at a recent fire in New York

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Important Projects South and West.

Good Showing of the Kansas Pacific—Another Southern Route for Cincinnati—Pennsylvania Central's Connections with the South—Transfer of Erie and Pittsburgh Railroad.

The annual report of the President of the Kansas Pacific Railway Company shows the condition of the road to be good: The total receipts from freight were $1,560,419 27; the total receipts from passengers, express and mails were $747,551 19; miscellaneous, $7,999 65; total, $2,225,829 11. The total working expenses were $1,586,180 62. The net earnings were $833,650 08; the average length of road in use has been 637 miles, being 35 miles more than the previous year; total amount of passengers carried was 165,858; increase 37,251, or 31 per cent. over the previous year; total amount of freight carried 175,518 tons; increase of 5,411 tons, or 4 per cent. over last year; mercantile traffic, 153,053 tons, an increase of 61,822 tons, nearly sixty-eight per cent.; gross receipts from commercial business, $1,768,415 92, an increase of $421,686 38, nearly thirty-three per cent. over last year. The operating expenses were a trifle over sixty-two per cent. of the gross earnings, an increase of eight per cent. over the preceding year, which was occasioned by the general improvement of the road and for repairing the damages occasioned by the floods in June and July, the expenses for the latter amounting to over $100,000. The operations of the land department show the number of acres sold to be 384,185; cash received, $247,286 49; notes, $76,094 86; and $105,812 75 expenses, $5,595,182; net proceeds, $97,263 96. The road from Kit Carson west is being pushed rapidly. The grading is all under contract, and the iron and other materials provided for, and the road will be completed to Denver by September next. The road from Denver to Cheyenne will be in operation by July 1st.

—The Pennsylvania Central having control of the Evansville, Henderson and Nashville Road, will, in a few months, have cars running directly through, and by taking the Ohio and Mississippi Road to Vincennes, thence the E. C. & T. H. Road to Evansville, and thence the E. H. & N. Road to Nashville, the merchants of Cincinnati can go around Louisville and reach the South—passing through a richer country, and perhaps one hundred miles nearer than from Louisville to Nashville. The Ohio and Mississippi Road is one of the best equipped and best managed roads in the country, and it passes, as does the E. C. & T. H. Road, through a good country. If Cincinnati makes a strong effort to secure the trade of this route to Nashville, she can get it. It comprises a large part of the best tobacco country in Kentucky—the section about Hopkinsville.

—The St. Paul *Press* announces that arrangements have been completed for the consolidation, in July, 1871, of the Lake Superior and Mississippi and the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroads. Gen. Gilfillan, Clark, Joseph A. Bonham, Wm. M. Dunn, Wm. Smyth and Wm. Y. Campbell, of the Upham Corporation, Joseph C. Hendricks, Edward S. McGlue, City Commissioner—Captain R. C. Gage, W. H. Crockett, Capt. James Bain, Edwin A. Spanker and Capt. George W. Curry, Representatives First District—Samuel P. Thomson and Geo. Handy Smith.

The Cumberland County Republican Committee, at a meeting on Monday, passed by a vote of forty-four to fifteen to submit the question of continuing the nomination of candidates by the Crawford County System to the voters. The system has been denounced by Brenaker, Hiestand *et al.*, have lost their occupations since the people took the nominations into their own hands. They have found that the politicians they will be bankrupt if they cannot get the old corrupt system reinstated. If the people are wise they will retain their present power.

THE BEST ENGLISH SOCIETY.

Putting Down Scandal by Putting on a Bold Front.

Since the Mordaunt divorce case the Prince and Princess of Wales have lived in the full light of public publicity. Attending dinner parties or giving balls; being seen driving with the Queen; going down to the country houses of the nobility;—there has not been a day's rest, and the busiest part of the season is anticipated. The papers are all exonerating him; though public opinion is not always represented by the journals, and there is always a tendency in society to be uncharitable in these things. The Prince espouses his wife's cause, and pays special attention to Lady Mordaunt's relatives. If the case comes up again individuals as the Commissioners decide upon review of all the evidence in each case to decide how much perjury there was among the jurors, and how many were within purview of the act of 1858, or any other act.

Mr. Watt Retains His Seat.

Mr. Graham, from the Watt-Diamond Committee, made a report, signed by Messrs. Graham, Brooke, Kerr, Wardle and Lowry, in favor of Watt. The minority report was in favor giving Mr. Diamond one thousand dollars.

HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 31, 1870.

SENATE.

Protest.

The joint resolution protesting against the passage by Congress of the bill for an air line railroad through Pennsylvania from Washington to New York was reported favorably.

The Sinking Fund.

Mr. Billingfelt, from the Committee on Finance, reported a communication from the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund with a bill. The bill provides substantially, first, that hereafter whenever the receipts of the State Treasury, exclusive of sinking fund, shall not be sufficient to pay current and ordinary expenses of government, it shall be lawful for the State Treasurer to devote such funds as may be in the sinking fund other than those placed there by the Constitution to the payment of such expenses; second, that the State Treasurer shall conform to the dec

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, April 9, 1870.

be folly to reject the best one of them all when we can get it so advantageously. He does not say whether he will or will not sell Samana Bay with the treaty, but appears to hope that some step in behalf of annexation may be yet be taken by the Senate. He says he had worked hard to show Senators its advantages, and expresses the opinion that every body would be in favor of it if they clearly understood all the facts as he does. He would doubtless heartily approve the project to send a Congressional committee or even a steamer's load of Congressmen down there on a tour of inspection, and by that means ascertain that some such movement as this may be proposed in the Senate on the heels of the treaty before the end of the session.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1870.

The Georgia Bill Laid Over.

The Georgia bill got shoved aside in the Senate to-day, the vote on laying it over being 32 to 22. This action rather took Governor Bullock and his friends by surprise. What will become of the measure, no one can tell. There is considerable talk around Bullock's course indicated yesterday by Mr. Carpenter, viz: to keep Georgia on probation a while longer. Bullock and his friends represent that outrages of all sorts prevail in the State, and the proposition is to take them at their word and let things remain under charge of the military for some months, giving the President power to declare martial law down there at will.

Charges Against General Howard.

Fernando Wood rose to a personal explanation in the House to-day, and after reading a letter from General Howard to the House with some statements he (Wood) had made in a speech upon the Bureau of Education bill last week, Mr. Wood then presented sixteen specific charges of irregularities, which he claimed had been committed in the administrament of funds of the Freedmen's Bureau. At the close he asked that, in justice to General Howard and his high character, the Freedmen's Affairs should be instructed to investigate the charges. He said that he chose this committee because there were no Democrats upon it. The matter caused a great deal of excitement. General Howard was warmly defended by Messrs. Peters, of Maine, Dawes and Hoar, of Massachusetts. A motion was made to entertaining Wood's motion, but finally General Howard's friends claimed that no objection should be interposed, as after a member had made such direct charges it was simple justice to all concerned to have him investigated. On motion of Mr. Dawes, the Committee on Education and Labor was directed to send for persons and papers, and proceed with the examination.

Forney and Bowen.

The *Chronicle* of this morning pretends to have the authority of the President for a sweeping denial of the statements concerning Mayor Bowen alluded to in these dispatches last night. Not only has no such denial been attempted to secure such action from the President and heads of some of the Departments as would establish the truth of the contest in one wing of the Republican party here, but it is also true that the statement the President did authorize was materially different from the one published, and was deliberately tortured by the Forneys and Bowen into a shape to suit their own ends.

The Bassschusetts Marshalship.

There has been a good deal of a rumpus here for the past few days about the U. S. Marshalship for Massachusetts. Mr. Pheips, who is Pension Agent at Boston, is writing the life of Mr. Sumner, and wanted to be Marshal, which place Mr. Sumner was quite willing he should have. Then General Butler had a friend whom he wanted to get into the Pension Agency, so Sumner and Butler went to work to get the change made. The Attorney General and Secretary of the Interior interposed, and blocked the game. Letters and telegrams protesting against it have been pouring in yesterday and to-day, and the general understanding to-night is that Messrs. Sumner and Butler have failed.

Whittemore.

South Carolina papers show that Whittemore is earnestly canvassing his District for a return to Congress. He is speaking about three times per week, and explaining the sale of his cadetship to the colored people, as the thing about which he has been very unjustly treated. Several speakers are in the field against him. The Governor of the State has not yet ordered a new election.

Peace Conference.

The peace conference between Spain on the one hand, and Chili, Peru and Bolivia on the other hand, will meet here about the end of this month. Our Government is to act as mediator in the matter.

The Duty on Glass.

The Ways and Means Committee to-day heard a delegation of glass dealers from New Jersey, who desire more protection than the Committee has agreed upon. A delegation from Pittsburgh is the same interest are expected to-morrow.

More Celebration.

The colored people of this District at a mass convention have decided to have a general celebration on the thirteenth inst. for this vicinity of the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. All organized societies of colored men in Baltimore and Alexandria are expected to participate.

The Memory of General Thomas.

An immense crowd assembled about Masonic Temple to-night to attend the meeting in memory of General Thomas. Only a small part could be accommodated, although the hall is a large one. General Schenck presided, and General Logan made an excellent and feeling oration. The preparations and exercises were of a character to reflect credit upon the Army of the Republic, under whose auspices they were conducted.

A Veritable Patriot.

Judson Williams, a private soldier, residing at Lancaster, Indiana, has written a letter to Commissioner Van Alstyne, returning his certificate of pension, saying that he wanted to contribute something to the payment of the national debt, and could do it best by having his name stricken from the pension roll.

Appointment by the President.

The President to-day sent in the nomination of Pierce for Judge of the Maryland District, and sent in the name of Hugh L. Bond, of Baltimore, being one of the prominent Republicans of that State.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5, 1870.

THE SALARIES OF UNITED STATES JUDGES IN PENNSYLVANIA.

In the House Monday, Mr. Scofield, of Pennsylvania, introduced the following bill to equalize the salaries of the District Judges of the District Courts of the United States for the Eastern and Western Districts of Pennsylvania:

Be it enacted, &c., That from and after the passage of this act the annual compensation paid to the District Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania shall be the same as is now paid by law to the District Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Accompanying this bill is a letter which Mr. Scofield received from Hon. H. B. Swope, the United States District Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. It is as follows:

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, } WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA. } PITTSBURGH, March 28, 1870.

Hon. G. W. Scofield.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed I send a petition of the members of the Erie bar for the passage of a bill increasing the salaries of the Judges of the United States Courts. If there is no prospect of the passage of a special bill for that purpose, I have to request that you will introduce and endeavor to have passed a special act to make the salary of the Western District of Pennsylvania the same as that of the Eastern. As it is now, Judge Cadwalader gets $5,000 per annum, while our Judge McCandless only gets $4,000, yet there is more business in this district. Take the year 1869, for instance. Last year our Court was in session eleven months, Judge Cadwalader only seven. Philadelphia alone, while, as you know, Judge McCandless sits in Pittsburgh, Erie and Williamsport. The district covers more than two-thirds of the State. It was originally supposed that the duties of the Judge residing in Philadelphia would make the duties of the judge there more onerous than the labors of the Judge of the interior; but we have as much admiralty business from Lake Erie and the Western waters as they have in Philadelphia, and you will perceive, therefore, that there is no reason for any such difference. The salary of Judge McCandless is not only ungenerous but absolutely unjust. When he was appointed and took his seat upon the bench the business did not require two month's court in the year. He could then devote a large part of his time to the satisfaction of money and property in other ways not inconsistent with his position or duties. But during and since the war he has been compelled to devote all his time to the public business, giving him no opportunity to attend to anything else, and he receives no more from any other source. Having thus relinquished a profession which would yield him five years to the service of the Government, he is in the decline of life left with a mere living salary, and that, too, requiring the most rigid economy. In the whole Union there is no one more firm, upright and independent, nor one who has done more during the war and since to uphold the dignity, power and authority of the General Government, and to maintain, vindicate, and enforce the laws. I cannot express as fully as I feel my high admiration of Judge McCandless, both as a man and as a judge, and my indignation that his salary should be one thousand dollars less than that of the judge in the Eastern District, when he is required to perform more labor, and has rendered to the Government, as I have no hesitation in saying, with all due respect to Judge Cadwalader, more valuable service. My feelings are deeply enlisted in this matter, and I will esteem it a personal favor if you will do very highest personal favor you can bestow upon your friend.

The bill referred to was referred to the Judiciary Committe.

NOMINATION.

The following nomination was sent in today: James P. Root, of Kansas, Minister resident at the Hague.

GEN. THOMAS FUNERAL.

The Congressional committee to attend the funeral of General Thomas leave Washington to-morrow morning. They are headed by General Sherman and others take the noon train.

INCREASE IN ASSESSMENTS.

A report from Secretary Boutwell, of Kansas, shows the assessments for February, 1870, are $5 per cent. over last year.

VIRGINIA APPOINTMENTS.

The Virginia delegation were at the Executive Mansion to-day conferring with the President relative to appointments in that State.

THE ARCTIC EXPLORER.

The Arctic explorer, is here at the instance of the Senate Foreign Committee, to explain his views relative to the property of a new expedition to the North Pole.

INCOME RETURNS NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

Commissioner Delano has forbidden the publication of the annual lists of assessments of income returns.

INFORMATION WITHHELD.

The President, in reply to the House resolution enclosed to-day a communication from the Secretary of State, saying it is incompatible with public interests to furnish certain information relative to the San Domingo treaty pending in executive session of the Senate.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The following message was sent to the House to-day by the President:

In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 29th ult., requesting to fisheries in British waters, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State, and papers which accompany it, and I have to state that the co-operating officer of the naval steamer ordered to the fishing grounds will be instructed to give his attention, should circumstances require it, to cases which may arise from any change which may be made in British laws affecting fisheries within the British jurisdiction, with a view of preventing so far as may be in his power, infractions by citizens of the United States of the first article of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain of 1818, and of the laws in force relative to fisheries within British jurisdiction, or any illegal interference with the pursuits of fisheries of the United States.

Signed) U. S. GRANT.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1870.

NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS.

The following nomination was sent to the Senate this afternoon: Hugh L. Bond, of Maryland, Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, vice *Geo. A. Pearce, withdrawn.*

The Senate confirmed the following nominations: Consuls—Jos. R. Wheeler, of Mass., at Ecuador; J. B. Gould, of Maine, at Bruning; *hem.* J. B. Kerr, of Maine, at Sefic Ben. B. Mercier, of Rock Island, at Caloula, Bruguar; C. W. Klaberg, of District of Columbia, at Verviers; D. H. Entebeiger, of New Hampshire, at Londonderry. Moses Hallett, Chief Justice of Colorado Territory, W. T. Patrick, Marshal of Utah Territory; John E. George, Postmaster at Lebanon, Pa.

PERSONAL.

Senator Cassserly is about to speak on the income, but has been excused from accompanying the Committee to Troy to attend the funerals of Gen. Thomas, and Senator Fenton appointed in his stead.

The President on his return will stay a day in Philadelphia.

TRANS-CONTINENTAL RAILWAY.

The Senate Sub Committee on Pacific Railroad had another meeting to-night, to hear arguments in favor of the trans-Continental, Memphis, El Paso and Pacific Railroad Company.

MEMORIAL PROCEEDINGS.

There were proceedings to-night at the Masonic Hall in honor of the memory of General Thomas, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic. General Schenck presided. Orations were delivered by General Logan, and brief speeches by Secretary Belknap, Joe Fretchett, Governor Ex Governor Fairchild, Secretary Cox, Senator Thayer, and Representative Maynard. Resolutions appropriate to the occasion were adopted.

GENERAL SHERMAN

Left this evening for Troy, to attend the funeral of General Thomas. He will precede the President to supervise the final arrangements.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE,

Foundered at Sea.

LONDON, April 6.—The Carleton, from Greenock for Quebec, foundered at sea. Two of her boats, containing the crew, reached the north coast of Ireland. The third boat has not yet been heard of.

New Minister from Greece.

A dispatch from Athens announces that P. Bequie, Greek Charge d'Affaires at Paris, has been appointed Minister of Greece to the United States.

Greater Confidence.

The release of dividends and prospect of a favorable budget strengthens the confidence of financial parties.

Fire.

A fire occurred among the lace factories at Nottingham last night. Damage heavy.

Parliament.

In the Commons to-day, the bill relative to sales for places of worship gave rise to an animated discussion. Mr Newdegate and others opposed the bill, but it passed to second reading, and the House adjourned.

Items from Paris.

PARIS, April 6.—The Ecole de Medicine has been closed until the 15th inst., on account of the disturbances created by students and insults offered to Dr. Tardieu.

The difficulty between Deputy Montpayroux and the Marquis de Rochefort has been peaceably settled.

Ulric de Fouvielle, before his departure from Tours, was tendered a banquet by the Radicals, but declined. He is now in Lyons, where strong efforts are being made to elect him to the Corps Legislatif.

The Conscription Troubles.

MADRID, April 6.—Slight disturbances growing out of the conscription are reported at Malaga and Salamanca, but with the exception of fighting in Barcelona and vicinity no serious resistance to the law.

LONDON, April 6—Advices from Spain represent little known of the state of affairs at Barcelona, as the revolutionists have cut the telegraph wires in every direction.

PARIS, April 6.—The Madrid *Gazette* says that order has been restored at Barcelona, but not without considerable loss of life. The barricades were attacked by the soldiers and taken without difficulty. About 50 insurgents were killed and wounded. The whole Province of Barcelona has been declared in a state of siege. The Governor of the Province has been disarmed, and the city placed under the military. There are rumors of serious disorders everywhere, particularly at Valencia and Cadiz, growing out of the popular opposition to the conscription law recently passed.

Eyre Blamed.

The *Times* admits that the evidence stands it is unable to acquit the Captain of the Bombay of blame, and says that the American Government and people have great cause for their resentment.

Royal Tour.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 6.—The Emperor and Empress will soon go on a tour through the Crimea and Caucasian provinces, and will subsequently visit Darmstadt and Ems.

Duelists.

BRUSSELS, April 6.—The Belgians have declined to send articles to the Fair at London in 1871.

A Protest.

LONDON, April 6.—A deputation interested in colonial trade have united in a protest to the Postmaster General against the new postal regulations, so far as they relate to sending forwarding of printed matter through the mails.

Billiards.

At Swansea, Wales, this evening Cook, the champion of billiards, made the extraordinary break of 591.

The University Boat Race.

LONDON, April 6.—The inter-University boat race between Oxford and Cambridge eight-oared crews took place this afternoon on the Thames, the course being from Putney to Mortlake, about four and a quarter miles. Notwithstanding the great pressure brought to bear upon the conservancy of the Thames to allow a private steamer to follow the boats, none but the two officials' steamers were permitted to do so. London poured forth hundreds of thousands to witness the contest, and the numbers were increased by thousands parties from the country brought by trains from all directions. Among the spectators were the Duke of Sutherland, Prince Teck, a son of the Pasha of Egypt, and many Lords and members of Parliament. The bets, which at one time were at 6 to 4 in favor of the Oxfords, were so eagerly taken by the friends of Cambridge that support before the start the odds had receded to five to four on Oxford. The excitement of the waiting multitudes became intense as the time for the start approached.

At exactly five o'clock the Oxonians shot out from their boat house at Putney, and received an ovation from the assembled crowds on shore that given the Oxford four when they came out against the Harvards last year. The men rested on their oars in mid-stream nearly eight minutes, when Cambridge made their appearance, and took up a position on the Middlesex side of the river. They also had a most enthusiastic reception from the multitude, and seemed in splendid condition. An even start was effected, and the boats pulled off in a magnificent style. At the aqueduct, fifty yards, the Cantabs began to gain, and when they reached Crover Corner, three-quarters of a mile, they were half a length ahead. Here the Oxfords spurted and kept it up for some distance. Their friends on shore wildly cheered them, but without success. The momentary struggle turned in favor of the Cantabs, though the latter were evidently rowing to their strength, and at Hammersmith Bridge Cambridge was a quarter of a length ahead. The Oxonians again spurted, and succeeded in reducing the gain of their opponents to half a length. A sharp struggle followed in this order, but as they passed the Isle of Air, two and three-quarter miles, the Oxonian crew began to pull the Cantabs, who were still fresh, rapidly drew in front, and won the race. The enthusiasm of the spectators found expression in storms of screams and cheers as the Cambridge crew finished. The whole time of the race was variously reported, but is now authentically given as 20 minutes and thirty seconds. The Cambridge crew on the morning of the race weighed eleven pounds more than the Oxfords, but they owe in no small degree their success to the advice of Mr. Morrison, who trained the crew for four last year for their match with the Harvards.

Northampton Races.

LONDON, April 6.—At Northampton races today, the Earl Spencer plate was won by Lisette Bosworth, who beat Amaretto colt. The racing plate was won by Enterprise, beating Flash of Pompano. Her Majesty's plate was won by Fusee, beating Free Trade and Compromise.

GEN. THOMAS.

Marks of Respect for the Distinguished Dead at Toledo, Cleveland, Erie and Buffalo.

TOLEDO, April 6.—The remains of General Thomas arrived here this morning at 6:30 under escort of a detachment of the second United States cavalry, under command of Lieut. Littenfield and Willard L. Young, Sheridan, chief officer. The funeral train was met at the depot by a large concourse of ex-soldiers and citizens under the marshalship of Brig. Gen. J. W. Fuller, and as the train moved into the depot the procession was formed on each side of the track. The train consisted of eight coaches, the rear one of which contained the corpse and guard of soldiers. The escort partook of breakfast at the Island House, where it was joined by Maj. Gen. John Pope and several officers from Detroit, who accompanied the remains East. The train departed at seven o'clock. Minute guns were fired as the train arrived and departed.

CLEVELAND, O., April 6.—The funeral cortege with the remains of General Thomas arrived at half-past eleven, and left at noon, the escort taking dinner here. Minute guns were fired and bells tolled during their stay. About six thousand of our citizens paid their respects to the illustrious dead. Business generally was suspended between eleven and twelve o'clock. The Cleveland Grays escorted the Committee to the depot. General Sheridan is on the train.

BUFALO, April 6.—A joint committee of the City Council, citizens, State military and United States officers met the train coming from Toledo, to meet the remains of General Thomas at the Pennsylvania line and escort them to this city. The train arrived here received with military honors and escorted as far as Rochester.

ERIE, Pa., April 6.—The General Thomas funeral cortege arrived here at 3 P. M. to-day. Flags were displayed at half mast throughout the city. The bells tolled and minute guns fired. The train was escorted to the depot by the Oxford, were so eagerly taken by the friends of Cambridge that support before the start the odds had receded to five to four on Oxford. The excitement of the waiting multitudes became intense as the time for the start approached.

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THE ONEIDA CALAMITY.

Report of Secretary Robeson on the Evidence.

The Blame Rests with the Bombay.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 23d inst., calling for information relative to the loss of the Oneida, Secretary Robeson says: "In the opinion of the Navy Department the conduct of Mr. De Long and our other civilian and military officers in Japan deserves the highest commendation.

"We are also indebted to the Japanese authorities, and to many of the officers and agents of the other governments then at Yokohama, for prompt and generous assistance after the occurrence became known. From an examination of the evidence in the possession of the department, the testimony taken before court of inquiry composed of British officers, the evidence of Master Yates, the officer of the deck on board the Oneida at the time of the collision, the accompanying charts, and the analysis of Lieutenant Lyons, it is the opinion of the department that the Oneida was, when she was struck, steaming her proper course out to sea from the Bay of Yeddo, bound to the United States; that the ship was well commanded, and her discipline good, and that all the necessary precautions were taken by her commander to ensure the safe navigation of the vessel and to prevent collision, and that the rules of the road conformed to agreeably to the regulations of the United States Navy, and that no blame is to be attached to the officers or crew of the Oneida for the collision. It is asserted by the captain of the Bombay, and by others, that the Oneida was discovered on rounding Kanonsaki point made the Oneida ahead or a little on the port bow, and that a collision with her was inevitable unless she would have taken her well clear of the American vessel. Under the rules of navigation of the department, inconsistent with the real result of their evidence when closely examined, and I am fully confirmed in this opinion by evidence now before us, that the disaster occurred through the bad management of the Bombay.

"In answer to the question, 'Whether all possible means or any means were used to relieve and rescue the officers and crew of the sinking vessel?' I have to say that no means appear to have been used by the captain of the Bombay to render any assistance whatever to the Oneida, although it seems inevitable that he should have seen her position, and that the damage done was of a very serious and dangerous character. Whether from fright or the influence of opinion may naturally exist as to the responsibility for the actual collision, or as to what was or should have been done on board of each ship before or at the moment of the contact, there can hardly be any question in regard to the conduct of the responsible commander of the Bombay after the collision took place. He then left the Oneida, and it is constrained to reply that it appears to have been the duty of a British officer charged for human life and of the common obligations of humanity. That such conduct should officially secures generally agree with regard to the circumstances connected with the disaster."

The Secretary of the Navy speaks in very complimentary letter from Secretary Robeson in relation to the conduct of Minister De Long regarding the Oneida disaster, in which he says: "I greatly appreciate the course pursued by Mr. De Long in investigating the lamentable collision between the Oneida and the Bombay. To him we are largely indebted for the result which, in the opinion of the Department, exonerates the officers and crew of the Oneida from all blame for the collision. Mr. De Long has proved himself a true American, devoted to the interests of his Government, and properly sensitive in regard to the rights and reputation of his countrymen. I feel sure that the relatives and friends of the deceased officers will fully appreciate his course throughout, and this feeling will be shared by every officer of the navy."

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Official Statement for March.

DecreaseDuring the Month $5,766,349

WASHINGTON, April 1.—The following is the public debt statement:

Debt bearing coin interest	$2,107,942,100 00
Interest	47,740,504 91
Debt bearing currency interest	50,000,000 00
Interest	485 00
Debt on which interest has ceased	3,914,336 66
Interest	513,262 00
Debt bearing no interest	434,580,200 61
Total debt	$2,595,947,627 25
Total interest	44,726,271 91
Total debt and interest	$2,650,677,919 16
Amount in Treasury—Coin	106,413,745 13
Currency	7,422,729 63
Sinking fund bonds and accrued interest	40,047,642 00
Special fund bonds and accrued interest	73,181,665 86
Total	215,115,782 59
Debt less amount in Treasury	$2,435,562,137 57
Decrease during the month	5,766,349 42
Decrease since June 30	36,437,862 43
Bonds issued to Pacific Railroad Companies, and interest accrued	64,457,320 00
Interest accrued and not yet paid	1,950,832 80
Interest paid by transaction of agency	4,681,264 00
Interest paid by transportation of mails	2,030,571 00
Balance of interest paid by the United States	4,837,093 80

MORE CLERICAL SCANDAL.

Rumors Affecting the Honor of a Doctor of Divinity—He is Charged with Breach of Promise of Marriage.

The community, for some time past, has been excited over rumors affecting the good name and reputation of a well known and popular minister, pastor of a very large and flourishing congregation in Allegheny. The minister is a widower, his wife having died some three years ago. In his congregation was a young lady, the daughter of a widow in humble circumstances but highly respectable. She had received a good education, had qualified herself for the profession of teaching, and had for some time taught in one of the public schools of the city. While pursuing the higher branches—Greek, Latin, etc.—her mind became affected, and she was compelled to forego her studies. It finally became necessary to remove her to an an asylum in an eastern city, where she remained for some time, and was discharged permanently restored. This lady made the acquaintance of the pastor, and in the time he became a suitor for her hand in marriage. The friends of the lady say she has in her possession ninety-six notes and love letters, which he had written to her, and in one of which he promised to marry her. She returned to, and June, 1870, fixed upon as the time. The intercourse continued mutually agreeable until recently, when the Doctor became cold towards her, and finally expressed his determination not to marry her. It is said that it goes that the doctor is in love with a young lady in an Eastern State, and that he is under betrothed to a large fortune. There is intense excitement in the congregation, and in the community, and some forty families, it is said either have severed their connection with the church, or contemplate doing so. Whether the satisfactory explanation is made, The church session have taken immediate action in the matter, and will probably bring the case before Presbytery. The young lady first alluded to has given birth to a female child since the close of the session. She states that she has no desire to prosecute the matter at law, and will keep its duplicity exposed. It is said that the reason assigned by the Doctor, for breaking off the engagement, is the mental weakness of the young lady; while her friends assert she is as rational as any person, and healthy, mentally and physically, as she ever was. She has applied for a position as teacher in the city schools of Chicago, where she has a brother residing, engaged in the practice of medicine. It is not known whether the lady is aware of the fact that the situation off affairs here, but the matter has assumed such a notoriety that a full explanation will ere long be demanded. The church judicatory. Until some definite action is taken, we withhold the names from the public.

THE ALLEGED CLERICAL SCANDAL.

A Denial by the Session of Certain Charges.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

At a meeting of the Session of the Second United Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, held last Tuesday, the following denial of reports published in certain city papers was authorized:

That the members of this Session have never had the subject before them, either in a formal or informal manner.

That they never had the letters alluded to either shown them or in their possession.

That the assertion that forty families have left the congregation, or intend doing so, as far as known to us, is entirely untrue.

In regard to the alleged great dissatisfaction among members of the congregation, that is also untrue, the Session itself being a unit in regard to sustaining their pastor.

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION.

THE BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

The Denial of the Session.

In Wednesday's COMMERCIAL we published a card, written at the instance of the Session of the Second United Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, denying certain statements made in connection with the alleged breach of promise of marriage on the part of the pastor of that church. We may state frankly that we did not pretend to be in possession of all the facts, so as to be able to test them with technical accuracy; and we do not ignore the fact that there are two sides to this, as to all other cases. But there are some statements made in the published card which surprise us, and which, in justice to ourselves, we deem proper to notice. The denials made by the Session are brief and emphatic, as follows:

That the members of this Session have never had the subject before them, either in a formal or informal manner.

That they never had the letters alluded to either shown them or in their possession.

That the assertion that forty families have left the congregation, or intend doing so, as far as known to us, is entirely untrue.

In regard to the alleged great dissatisfaction among members of the congregation, that is also untrue, the Session itself being a unit in regard to sustaining their pastor.

As the last denial would, we stated that "the church session have taken informal notice of the matter, and will probably bring the case before Presbytery." As to the letters, we have good reason to believe that their contents—or at least what is material to the case—have been made known to members of the Session. In dealing with these two points, we apprehend that the denial is unfortunately of a technicality; and, while it may be true that, as a *church* body, they have not formally had the letters before them, they have thoroughly discussed it, in all its bearings, in their *individual* capacity.

The card of two publishes a statement in the church over the rumors. We asserted, on the authority of our informant, that seventy families would sever their connection with the congregation, "unless a satisfactory explanation was made." The denial of this statement entirely untrue, "so far as they know." They go further, and say that there is no great dissatisfaction among the members, and that "that the session itself is a unit in regard to sustaining their pastor." This latter clause reads strangely when taken in connection with the declaration that the session has never had the subject before them, either in a formal or informal manner. How did they ascertain that there was no dissatisfaction in the church; and how did they learn that the session was a unit in regard to sustaining their pastor, "if they never had the subject before them? Sustaining him in regard to what? Has there been a breach of promise, or not? It seems that the session have decided the whole case, without ever having heard a scintilla of evidence, because they stand as one man in support of their pastor! It would have been much more to the point if the session, instead of denying collateral statements, had contradicted the main allegation.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 6, 1870.

The only noticeable feature in the local money market is a more active and increased demand for loans, and coming from applicants in good standing the banks are able to meet on a liberal scale. It is also noticed that our wholesale jobbing houses are quite busy with their customers, who are purchasing their spring supplies. Prices are now as low as they can reasonably be expected for the next twenty days, and if there should be a "hitch" in the pending financial measures before Congress, gold will again advance sharply.

—In New York some fears are expressed that another artificial stringency in money may be engineered by the cliques. The *Commercial Advertiser* of Tuesday evening says: The question this morning, in Wall street, is—what has become of the greenback? Until within the last few days, they have been abundant and were readily loaned at 4@6 per cent. No one knows of any considerable amounts having been sent out of the city, excepting some shipments to Philadelphia, which are difficult of explanation, considering that money there is abundant and easy at 5@6 per cent. Yet, very singularly, this morning there is complaint among the banks and on the street that greenbacks are scarce and in active demand. As there is nothing in ordinary, legitimate movements to account for this feature, the conjecture is obvious that certain "bear" operators in stocks have taken to borrowing Legal Tenders for the purpose of locking them up. There are two difficulties in the way of this trick succeeding: first, the bank reserves are altogether too high to permit any material advance in that line of such manipulation to produce any material effect; and, second, whenever such a game in operation is known, the parties engaged in it, and the object they are aiming at.

—The interest on the government bonds was another feature in the Wall street markets today. It is thought the rise is caused by heavy purchasers in anticipation of the defeat of the Funding bill.

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

April 6, 1870.	10 30	11 15	12 15	1 45	3 30
	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.
New York Central	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
Erie	25	25	24¾	24¾	24¾
Harlem					
Reading	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾
Michigan Central		86			
Michigan Southern	86¾	86¾	87	87¼	87¼
Illinois Central					
Cleveland and Pittsburgh		100			100¼
Chicago & Northwestern	72¾	73	73	73	73¼
Do preferred	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾
Fort Wayne	112	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
St. Paul		61	61	61	61
St. Paul preferred		76	76	76	76
Toledo and Wabash		46	46	46	46
Toledo and Wabash pref.		80	80	80	80
Fort Wayne		112			111
Ohio and Mississippi		29¾	29¾	29¾	29¾
Western Union Telegraph		34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾
Adams Express		61	61	61	61
Wells, Fargo & Co. Express		44	44	44	44
American M. U. Express					
United States Express		44½	44½	44½	44½
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾

A comparison between yesterday's and today's closing quotations shows the following changes:

	Yes.	Wed.	Adv.	Dec.
N. Y. Central	102¾	102¾		
Erie	25	24¾		
Harlem	140	140		
Reading	97¾	98		
Mich. Central	110	110		
Mich. Southern	87	87¼		
Illinois Central	140			
Cleve. and Pitts.	100	100		
Chicago and North.	73¾	73¾		
Do. preferred	84¾	84¾		
Clev. and Tol.	93	93		
St. Paul	61¾	61		¾
Do. preferred	76	76		
Tol. and Wabash	46	46¾		
Do. preferred	74	74		
Fort Wayne	112	111¾		¼
Chicago and Alton	112	111¾		¼
Ohio and Miss.	29¾	29¾		
Western U. Tel.	82¾	82¾		
Pacific Mail	80¾	80¾		
New York Mail	57	57		
Wells, Fargo & Co.	39	39		
American M. U. Ex	43	43		
U. S. Express	45	44½		½

—James W. Kennedy, Broker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building, dealer in United States Bonds, State and Municipal Securities, Railroad Bonds and Stocks, and Gold and Stocks. Being represented in the New York Stock Boards every day while in session, he purchases and sells on commission any stocks in the regular way, and has the services of the New York brokers. Governments, Gold and Railway Stocks purchased for customers on the usual margin.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 6, 1870. }

BUSINESS—We can report a decidedly better feeling in the market to-day, and a fair trade in articles that come under the head of general merchandise. The spring trade in all its branches is now fairly inaugurated, and dealers are operating more freely. Though there are some staples that are not moving very fast, prices for most articles were steadily maintained. Holders are evidently not disposed to make any further concessions in order to effect sales. Buyers are beginning to find this out and are preparing to act accordingly. The following are the receipts of produce for the past two weeks:

	Last Week.	This Week.
Flour, bbls	5,282	3,733
Apples, bbls	1,206	1,099
Potatoes, bush	829	1,000
Corn, sacks	1,918	595
Bran, sacks	1,906	2,528
Barley, sacks	3,093	3,993
Hay, tons	160	160
Oats, sacks	2,269	1,558
Butter, pkgs	310	210
Bacon, lbs	20,213	11,919

The receipts for the past three months were as follows:

	January.	February.	March.
Flour, bbls	16,101	19,851	18,429
Apples, bbls	1,906	3,202	1,713
Potatoes, bush	1,000	1,000	1,000
Corn, sacks	16,781	9,143	8,941
Bran, sacks	12,531	13,531	12,341
Barley, sacks	14,044	15,118	12,341
Rye, sacks	3,819	5,491	4,307
Oats, sacks	16,250	14,150	16,162
Butter, packages	854	999	1,891
Bacon, lbs	107,000	91,000	74,708

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—The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo Building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Boards during the day:

	10 30	11 15	12 15	1 45	3 30
April 6, 1870.	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.
New York Central	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
Erie	25	25	24¾	24¾	24¾
Harlem					
Reading	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾
Michigan Central		86			
Michigan Southern	86¾	86¾	87	87¼	87¼
Illinois Central					
Cleveland and Pittsburgh		100			100¼
Chicago & Northwestern	72¾	73	73	73	73¼
Do preferred	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1870.

TERMS:

One copy, per year $2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year 1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

PITTSBURGH

COMMERCIAL.

DAILY AND WEEKLY.

1870.

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IT IS A PEOPLE'S PAPER.

And relies on their support and good opinion rather than the favors of political leaders. Nor has it done so in vain. Its independent course—more especially in denouncing legislative corruption and exposing the practices of thieves in office—has made it the favorite of the masses and the feared of dishonest officials and debauched party leaders. Of the reputation it has earned in this respect it is sincerely proud, and it wishes no different standing in the field of journalism in this regard than a discriminating public promptly accord to it. The most faithful to their confidence and good opinion will be its constant endeavor.

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IT IS A PROSPEROUS AND GROWING PAPER.

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It being read more generally than any other Pittsburgh paper by the business, professional and thinking classes. It is always found where the latest and best news is sought for, and an independent paper prized,—in Banking Houses, Counting Rooms and the Family Circle, where it is welcomed as a bright and intellectual necessity, and where its influence is constant and increasing.

ITS PAST COURSE IS ITS BEST RECOMMENDATION,

And it is felt that there is no necessity for indulging in new professions or making fresh promises. It means, while adhering to its standard in politics and morals, to improve as it progresses, and omit nothing that will add to its usefulness or increase its usefulness.

THE NEXT YEAR.

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TERMS.

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THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

Quietness is said to be a characteristic of strength, and it is certain that the most marvellous transformations in the natural world ordinarily take place in silence. The same phenomenon may be observed in the evolutions of human history. What is denominated human progress, or the advancement of society, has generally been a slow and gradual process from worse to better in the various departments of life, until the consummation of a high civilization has been attained. Thus the free institutions of the free races have, in general, been the outcome of many centuries of battle and conflict, at one time apparently going backward and then advancing, but in each position maintained by the resolute hearts and hands of men who clearly knew the objects for which they were struggling. In reference to this mode of national progress the advancement of freedom indicated by the fifteenth amendment may be justly described as anomalous or irregular. The rights and privileges which the act imparts were not, strictly speaking, the well defined objects of the tremendous conflict of which the enfranchisement of four millions of human beings is one result, while the oppression whose fetters the act has removed, was the work of one of the freest nations of the earth. But the act is thus anomalous, because, duly itself to the consummation of the conscription of a whole race which it necessitated were monstrous anomalies, a satire upon our republican institutions, and incompatible with the letter and spirit of our common christianity. They were mere exerescences, grounded in nothing but the selfishness of one portion of our population, and in the fears of another. In 1856 the late Professor SILLIMAN, writing to a friend in England, said: "Mr. WEBSTER several years ago warned the South to beware how they aroused the northern conscience. It is now aroused, and I believe will not sleep again." The immediate effect of this awakening of conscience was to enable the people to see that their love of peace and union with slavery was "full of corruption and shames," and that in the coming wars there was hope for the world as well as for the country. Emancipation and the investiture of the negro in all the rights of humanity were soon recognized as measures demanded as sternly by the true interests of the white man as by justice to the black. Hence the rapidity with which the revolution of which this fifteenth amendment is the consummation has run its course, has been the mere necessity of doing quickly what justice, humanity and our own interests required to be done long ago. And it is truly a measure of grand importance, with reference to the future of both the races concerned. In the new relations into which it introduces them, it imposes duties upon each, by no neglect of the performance of which the fortunes or the entire country will be much affected, for good or evil. There is consolation in the trust that, by justice and deference for conceded rights on the side of the stronger and more numerous race, and by patient industry and increasing intelligence on the part of the minority, the prosperity of their common country shall be such as visibly to bear witness to the wisdom of justice and mercy.

BRIGHAM YOUNG is fearfully on the rampage about the CULLOM anti-Mormon bill in Congress. His protest, which is vigorous and bears the marks of ability, is based on the claim that Utah belongs to the Mormons by discovery and settlement, and that polygamy is a part of their religion, which they have a right to enjoy. The bill in its operations, it is maintained, would be a cruelty and in direct violation of the Constitution. On these propositions he repeats arguments we have heard so many times in defense of the monstrous doctrines of which he is the chief exponent. The passage of the CULLOM bill is purely a question of expediency, in regard to which good men differ. It is generally urged that it would fail of its object and strengthen Mormonism—if not in Utah, certainly in the new regions to which they would resort; that left alone and the influences resulting from the increase of population and the development of the country, the distinctive features of Mormonism would disappear—a view of the subject which we apprehend will ultimately prevail.

THE NEW VOTERS

General GRANT, habitually reticent in the uncalled for expression of his opinions, is still more habitually reserved in the disclosure of his feelings. Hence the freedom with which he has expressed himself in reference to the adoption of the Fifteenth amendment is justly regarded as significant of even deeper interest in the subject than his words convey. Every one doubtless remembers the terms in which the President characterized the measure in his message to Congress announcing the ratification, and a few evenings afterwards, when acknowledging a complimentary serenade, he declared that no consummation since the close of the war had afforded him so much pleasure, that ever since his election he had felt the greatest anxiety in reference to its enactment, and characterized it as the realization of the Declaration of Independence. Still later we hear of him in private conversation, dwelling on the subject and declaring that he had had more gratification than he could express in signing the bill that made the amendment secure. From such language, as well as from known facts, we may confidently conclude that the whole influence of the Administration, in as far as General GRANT could control it, has been exerted in favor of the measure—and that by his agency in completing the work of enfranchisement begun by Mr. LINCOLN, the President will always rank with the Great Emancipator in the memories of future generations of both the races interested in this signal triumph of justice and mercy.

But while admitting the measure to be one demanded by right and destined to be of advantage to the white as well as to the colored race, it would surely be a great mistake in the latter to forget their real relation to its enactment. Though entitled to enfranchisement in virtue of their humanity, it has not been conquered or won by them. It has been imparted to them by the free act of their fellow men. Nor can it be justly said to have been earned by them; it has been conferred upon them in the voluntary recognition of their human rights. It seems to us important for their own interests that the enfranchised men should entertain correct views on this point from the first. In his speech in the Senate, a very creditable performance in some respects, Mr. REVELS said, "the people of the North owe the colored race a deep obligation which it is no easy matter to fulfill." The claim is much too strongly expressed, and, in view of the immeasurably deeper debt of obligation on the other side, of the immense sacrifice of life and treasure made by the North for their liberation, it will surely be not less becoming than discreet in the colored citizens to avoid the error of overestimating their services. Then we are told that in some parts of the country men of influence among the enfranchised are already talking about a "negro policy." We do not believe, however, that very many of them will fall into either of the mistakes just referred to. Indeed, clear indications have been already given that they are on their guard against the intrigues and ambitious suggestions of unprincipled office hunters of both races. The right course for them to pursue must seem very clear to all of them capable of thought and observation. Education is their great want. Their duty in regard to this has been pointed out by the President, and we may trust that the advice of so earnest and steadfast a friend will not be disregarded. Intelligent and self-dependent citizens, attentive equally to rights and duties, resolved and ever striving to merit recognition, and never obtrusive in claiming more than the most worthy popular sentiment around them is ready to aid them in securing, will certainly in the long run prosper as they desire.

THE COMMERCIAL of Monday contained a summary of the arguments by which the President is believed to recommend to the Senate the ratification of the San Domingo treaty. No one could read it, we suppose, without being deeply impressed by the force of several of the reasons, or by the cogency of them all taken together. Should ST. Domingo offer itself to England, there can be little doubt that the offer would be eagerly embraced, and one does not see clearly how we could consistently forbid the protectorate. After our government should have declined to take the position, the civilized world could hardly be expected to look with much sympathy or favor upon our interference on the mere ground of the MONROE doctrine. The doctrine would be thus presented as an abstract pretext on which we claimed the right of preventing other American governments from making arrangements deemed by themselves essential to their welfare. A Darien Canal also seems a certainty in the not distant future, and affords a most cogent and urgent reason for our securing a firm basis in the West Indies from which to maintain our due influence in connection with the great thoroughfare between the Oceans. What a vast affair such an opening will be is apparent from the fact that it will shorten the distance between Europe and the western shore of the Pacific by fourteen thousand miles. The right to open the passage, as readers remember, was granted a short time ago to the United States by the Colombian Government. And the Commission appointed to explore the isthmus for the ascertainment of the best route, is at present busily engaged in its work, with good hopes of success. On the 14th of March, the expedition was in Caledonia Bay, from which point it intended to direct its operations into the interior. The steamers *Guard* and *Nipsic* had arrived in the bay, whence the latter vessel had steamed for Carthagena, to procure native laborers. Contrary to expectations the Indians are not hostile, and are believed to be friendly. They were very timid at first, but this timidity was soon overcome, and their assistance in the work, if kindly dealt with, is hoped for, in fact, is relied upon. These operations are certainly adapted to give vitality to our West India relations. In reference to our present coast line, its weak point, as Gen. GRANT says, is on the Gulf coast, and with an important interest in the Isthmus, the possession of one of the islands at least would seem to be essential to the maintenance of our position.

WITHOUT regard to this controversy about the site for the public buildings, it is proper to say that the State Executive is with the people of the Philadelphia newspaper press, and their vigilant correspondents at Harrisburg, the only protection of the city from the abominable schemes against personal rights and property, our inadequate laws and the City Treasury, that are all the time being concocted by some of our city senators and members. Not even the hard-earned savings of the industrious working people of the corporate city are safe against the nefarious schemes of these men, as the events of the last ten days have demonstrated. Yet in the face of such shameless acts, there are people who encourage and applaud similar wrongs for the sake of success in some miserable job. These should be an end to all this for the future. The Governor is doing his duty in protecting the citizens of people against unwise, unjust and unlawful legislation, and he is entitled to the thanks of this community.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

Our Philadelphia contemporary has stated the case well. But has it nothing to say in favor of the only means practicable for curing these abominable evils—a Constitutional Convention! The people who suffer should be pointed to the only way they can obtain relief. The press performs its duty in part only when it points out the wrongs perpetrated without indicating the means of obtaining security in the future. In view of the monstrous outrages committed by our Legislature, which are every year growing in number and magnitude, the public mind is becoming aroused to the importance of revising the Constitution, so as to cut off special legislation and provide other guards which costly experience is proving to us are essential to the safety, rights and property of citizens. In the labor of stimulating this feeling and bringing about such a consummation, we hope to have the co-operation not only of the *Ledger*, but of the press of the State generally.

IT seems that the United States is not the only country of North America in which certain jealousy is produced by the conflict of spoken languages. Just now many of the Canadian French are very indignant at the manifest contempt with which the language of France is treated, not only by the English, but by some people of French descent, who desire to appear more British than the Britons themselves. The disaffected in favor of the Gaelic tongue is not only neglected, but is the object of an *incomprehensible* and persistent persecution. The *Courrier* of Ottawa says:

"It would appear that the more French literature is diffused in our country, the less willing they are to give it the much practicable facilities of official help. Thus the last number of the Canada *Gazette* (the government organ), received to-day, contains eight pages of printed matter, has only four in French. We are nevertheless of the opinion (in accordance with claims already made), that this formality ought to be printed in both languages, or to better express ourselves, that the English portion ought to be entirely translated into French."

And the writer then goes on to say that the French Canadians allege a French translation to be indispensable in a publication of the kind in question—and that repeated representations of this purport made to the Government have been utterly disregarded. And he intimates that a Franco-Canadian coalition may be necessary to impose its will upon the minority, should this retrograde and unwise policy be persisted in. We may add that it is the known policy of the English, wherever they rule, to give as much vogue as possible to their language.

We have mentioned the subjects as having some little interest in connection with the agitation of our German citizens in favor of their language. There is, however, a great difference between the two situations, as in Canada East a large majority of the population are of French descent. A circumstance of hardship in the case of the Franco-Canadians is the well known difficulty with which the uneducated Frenchman learns a foreign tongue.

A LETTER received here recently from Jefferson Davis alludes to the statement made by Senator CAMERON in the late Senatorial fight in which he and Cameron had told him that a negro would succeed him. Mr. DAVIS said that he had never had any such statement to him at that or any other time, that he never received a dispatch from Mr. DAVIS retired other than the expression of his good wishes, and that he has expected Mr. CAMERON, as a matter of right, to succeed him. He characterized as false the statement in the Senate imputed to him by the newspapers.

So runs a Washington dispatch. While Senator CAMERON'S hand is in, either for reaffirmation or denial, it is to be hoped that he will give a true history of his withdrawal—or expulsion—from Mr. LINCOLN'S Cabinet. Certain statements, in that connection, have been put afloat quite contrary to the facts, and which Senator CAMERON will probably be called upon to correct. For instance, he can say that his letter of resignation and the reply of Mr. LINCOLN, were substituted for a decisive letter of dismissal from the President; and he will probably be able to state by whom this correspondence was engineered, and what part Mr. CHASE played in the matter. This much, at the very least, CAMERON owes to Senator WILSON, who was betrayed into an inaccurate statement on the subject recently. Should he refuse or neglect to do this, then Senator WILSON will owe it to himself to make his own correction of the errors into which he was betrayed. It is due to the "truth of history" that the facts in regard to the manner CAMERON left should be told—and they will be. That done, we can then pass on to other passages in the history of the old Chief, not the least interesting of which will be certain orders—or, to be more exact, a certain order by him as Secretary of War, which bears an important relation to an interesting event early in the war.

THE anti-sectarian school meeting in New York, Wednesday evening, was an event not of local importance purely. The appropriation of large sums of the public money to support Roman Catholic Schools gave rise to the meeting; but the subject is one which to a certain extent engages attention in many parts of the country. The resolutions and speeches protesting against the use of the public money to support sectarian schools, and uttering warnings against the growth of power and wealth by the Roman Catholic Church in this manner, will elicit a ready response outside of New York. This grasping tendency is not confined to that city or State. It is felt wherever that religious (and we might say political) organization is strong enough to make attempts like these whereby half a million of dollars has been taken from the public treasury in New York for its own peculiar purposes. It is a matter of no surprise that public sentiment should be aroused. It is but natural that there should be a conviction that we are in the presence of dangers which unless they are met and arrested must end in the destruction of our peculiar and cherished system of government. The source of this danger was aptly set forth by Mr. DODGE, one of the speakers at the New York meeting, when he said:

"It is the glory of our institutions that here every sect and every man may worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and manage their ecclesiastical affairs just as they please, provided they do not in any way infringe on the rights of any other sect. It is the glory of our free institutions that to interfere with the working of a system which is intended for the good of all, is to be guilty of treason. The fact that we have in our midst a sectarian element which in all the past history of the world has made education and elevation of the masses, and which claims to be the true and infallible interpreter of the religion of our Savior. Acknowledging ultimate responsibility to a power higher than the people, both temporal and spiritual, the great mass of their adherents have been taught to look for the overthrow, subversion and poverty of the old. Ignorant and superstitious, they have been taught to look to, and rely on their spiritual advisers and instructors, with little or no knowledge of our institutions. That this is true, as yet, in a very short time, admitted to all the privileges of American citizenship. They come among us, and we welcome them and surround them the protection of our laws; we offer them a liberal portion of our unoccupied territory without money and without price offer to educate both them and their children in our free schools, on the grand and liberal principles on which our institutions are founded. They accept our offer, and they do not care for our Protestant Bible being in our schools—for we should not believe of them that the Bible it would not answer unless we allow them to teach it; and in a few years they are found to be in the influence of our public schools, and their democratic character, free from all sectarian bias, the mixing of their children with ours, the tendency of the schools to produce in the future an American character, and the danger that they may break loose from the chains of Ecclesiastical rule. They make no concealment of their political power; it is in our city triumphant, and they do not hesitate to boast of it as well in the State. Year after year we see throughout the country what they have gained here.

The meeting was one of great influence and large in numbers, and it started a movement which is not likely to die out at once, nor to be confined to New York city.

THE Senators whose terms of office will expire with the present Legislature are the following:

Dist.		Dist.	
3d—David A. Nagle,	D.	14th—John B. Beck,	D.
4th—Chas. H. Silliman,	R.	15th—John K. Robison,	R.
6th—R. J. Linderman,	D.	C. J. T. McIntyre,	D.
7th—S. Slenker,	D.	25th—Thos. Struthers,	R.
8th—J. D. Davis,	D.	28th—Morrow B. Lowry,	R.
13th—W. M. Randall,	D.		

Of the seven Democrats, five are pretty sure of being returned if nominated, namely: NAGLE, LINDERMAN, BROWN, DAVIS and RANDALL; at least, their Districts are hopelessly Democratic. In the Fourteenth and Twenty-first Districts there is every reason to believe that the Republicans will be able to harmonize and elect their candidates, as those Districts are both Republican by good majorities. The Republican Districts above mentioned will be represented by Republicans as now. Messrs. STINSON, HOWARD and HALL, it is understood, are candidates for renomination, but Col. ROBISON, of Blair, is not. The Democrats are all candidates for renomination. Of the Senators holding over fourteen are Republicans and eight Democrats, giving a Republican majority of six. As there is every prospect that six of the eleven Senators to be elected the ensuing October will be Republicans, the Republican majority in the next Senate will be seven.

BEEF packing in Chicago has declined during the past year. The chief reason assigned is the establishment of large packing houses in Kansas and Texas for the packing of Texas cattle, and the beef furnished from those points is sold at so much lower figures that Chicago packers can not afford to pay the prices for cattle in that market, pack and sell the product at a fair profit. Again, the orders for beef products are sent directly to these points, and are not so frequently sent to Chicago as formerly, which necessitates the shipments of beef products manufactured here direct to other markets in order to have it disposed of at fair figures. The number of cattle packed in Chicago this year is 11,963, against 26,950 last year.

GREAT BRITAIN sent to the United States in the year 1869 the iron of railroad iron in 1868, 50 tons; in 1869, 200 446 tons; and 1870 promises a larger import, as the month of January showed 24,600 tons against 20,441 tons in January, 1869. Great Britain, in 1867, exported to all parts of the world 980,572 tons of railroad iron; in 1868, 883,484; in 1869, 695,865. Of the export of 1869, the United States took 300,446 tons; Russia, 97,877; British India, 38,756; British America, 24,000, and so on down. Egypt took 6,000 tons; Peru took no less than 1,000 tons, and little Chile 400 tons,—a good sign for the South American republics.

So run figures full of instruction. Every ton of British iron represents certain things which the United States possesses—labor, capital, skill, breadstuffs, clothing, etc. Instead of sending these over to us, Great Britain works them into iron and sends that. That she can undersell us, unless we are protected, is because her labor is so poorly paid—for labor is the foundation of it all. We must either compete or close up our shops. To compete successfully, we must either have protective duties of labor down to the British standard. The labor in each ton of iron imported comes in competition with American labor. The breadstuffs in each ton comes in competition with our grain growers, and so on as to everything entering into the production of a ton of iron, every element which our country possesses to an extent and in excellence in every respect equal to Great Britain. The only difference is, here labor is better paid, the condition of the mechanic and laborer is better. He lives better, his prospect is more inspiring, he has greater liberty—has free education, a social standing, and attains to any position of which he is capable. These must be sacrificed down to the English level under Free Trade, or preserved under Protection. Buying abroad means the closing up of our mills and shops, and that means tens of thousands of consumers driven to the soil to become producers. Cheaper iron from abroad means cheaper prices for whatever the soil produces, with diminished ability to buy; for experience proves that whenever our manufacturers have thrived and labor has been employed, whatever the soil has produced has borne good prices. Shall we manufacture at home or buy abroad?

THE reader will perceive that the business portion of the community are making heavy demands on our space and furnishing a large amount of reading of a peculiar interest to all sorts of people. No one pretending to keep himself posted with what is going on, overlooks the advertisements in a live daily paper. In a certain sense they constitute the mirror of an important part of daily life and its doings. It was the remark of a discriminating individual that after the telegraphic dispatches he turned to the advertisements. The hint is a good one. The sagacious advertiser resorts to the columns of the paper which is most generally read—and that is the reason the columns of the COMMERCIAL are so crowded.

THE bill originally known as the bill to incorporate the "National Improvement Company," but subsequently changed to "the Pennsylvania Company," having been amended to meet the objections urged against it, has passed both branches of the Legislature. The Company thus incorporated will have their headquarters in this city, for the management of the several railroads west of Pittsburgh, owned or controlled by the Pennsylvania Central Company. The law is of the highest importance to that Company, and will doubtless prove advantageous to the public also. It will probably be able to state by whom this correspondence was engineered, and what part Mr. CHASE played in the matter. This much, at the very least, CAMERON owes to Senator WILSON, who was betrayed into an inaccurate statement on the subject recently. Should he refuse or neglect to do this, then Senator WILSON will owe it to himself to make his own correction of the errors into which he was betrayed. It is due to the "truth of history" that the facts in regard to the manner CAMERON left should be told—and they will be. That done, we can then pass on to other passages in the history of the old Chief, not the least interesting of which will be certain orders—or, to be more exact, a certain order by him as Secretary of War, which bears an important relation to an interesting event early in the war.

A PLETHORA of money exists in Wall street, which is an unhealthy sign, and creates a tendency to unhealthy speculation. It is a sign of stagnation and disease, and its consequences, if the condition long continues, are to be dreaded. The activity of capital is the sure sign of health. Many are disposed to ascribe it to the uncertainty of the action of Congress on the Funding bill. The *Financial Chronicle* concludes an article as follows:

"On the whole, then, the money market has some features of unsoundness. It is unhealthy in its effects as well as suffering in the indisposition of capitalists to engage in new enterprises. This floating capital is accumulated, but it is not employed. It is waiting for the time when the influence of forces which are known, which can be controlled, and which, in any case must, after a temporary activity, be reversed."

THE people are making themselves heard at Washington against the odious Income Tax. The President, Secretaries, Senators and Members are daily besieged by parties pronouncing in favor of its abandonment. Secretary BOUTWELL, of all others, is most obstinate in favor of the inquisitorial law. The President, who stands pledged to have no policy opposed to the people, has manifested a willingness to yield, and is said to have promised to "see" Mr. BOUTWELL on the subject. He had better see him thoroughly while he is about it.

THE vote of the Judges on the question of reopening the Legal Tender question stood five to four. Those for reopening were: Justices SWAYNE, MILLER, STRONG, BRADLEY and DAVIS. Those opposed were: Chief Justice CHASE, Justices CLIFFORD, NELSON and FIELD. This is regarded as a test vote on the main question, which suggests the reasonable presumption that the minds of the persons composing the Court are already made up, and that the argument will be simply a matter of form.

IT is reported that the Pennsylvania Central Company have leased the Erie and Pittsburgh railroad. Of the seven different roads running to and from Pittsburgh, six are either owned or controlled by the Central. The exception is the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road. It is not believed that any immediate danger exists that this Road will fall into the possession of the Central. Concerning its western connections, however, there is less certainty.

BILLS are pending, with a fair chance of passing, in the New York Legislature, granting State aid at the rate of $10,000 a mile to the Midland, the Adirondack and the Buffalo and Washington Railroads. The latter road is the continuation of what is known as the Jersey Shore and Buffalo road, provided for in the "Omnibus" bill now in Governor GEARY'S hands.]

THE Border Raid bill having been disposed of—thanks to the Legislature—the little bill imposing three cents on each gross ton of anthracite coal sold in this State, will now become the object of less interest. It is presumed. It was an ingenious device for scooping into the Treasury some millions which the raiders were to scoop out. And still the question is, what next?

THE Legislature of British Columbia have, it is said, passed a resolution that Canada should annex Alaska and the State of Maine. This is regarded as a joke on the part of these humorous legislators, but on the other hand, it is regarded as another way of agitating the question of the annexation of British North America to the United States.

CONSIDERABLE apprehension exists among the property holders in New York relative to the removal of the Central Park Commissioners, and a meeting was held on the subject, it being considered a public calamity should the management of the Park be removed to the manipulations of a political ring.

THE Fifteenth Amendment Proclamation comes in time for the Connecticut election. The colored voters in that State number between two and three thousand, nearly all of whom, it is claimed, will vote with the Republicans.

IT is suspected that the letter which Pleasanton has received from the absconding Bailey is a forgery; also that the report that Bailey dined with a leading journalist on Saturday is false.

THE COLORED VOTERS.

Their Preliminary Movements in Cincinnati—How they Intend to Act.

The enfranchisement of the colored race by the adoption of the Fifteenth Constitutional Amendment, has invested the movements of that people with peculiar interest. How they may receive and act upon their newly acquired privileges in the outset of their civil career will therefore be regarded with more than a feeling of mere curiosity, indicating as it will their future value as intelligent and patriotic citizens, and whether this privilege has been wisely or unwisely conferred upon them. Hence their movements will be narrowly watched and the spirit that governs them closely analyzed. We notice that the colored people of Cincinnati held a mass meeting on Friday night last, partly to express their joy at the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment, but more particularly to take preliminary steps for their first exercise of the franchise on the succeeding Monday. The meeting was decorously conducted, and the views expressed in reference to the candidates and the tickets to be supported by them at the coming election, evinced a discrimination and judgment not only creditable to them, but giving earnest hopes of their future value as an element of popular suffrage. The first speaker, a Mr. Perkins, a man past the meridian of life, with a predominance of Caucasian blood, expressed in all cases it has been shown to possess the remarkable quality claimed for it. The steel produced during these tests was generally used for making steel-tapped rails, and one of these bars, made at Pittsburgh was shown to possess a tensile strength of 112,500 pounds to the square inch of cross section.

A NEW explosive agent termed *Lithofracteur* was, on Saturday last, successfully applied to some heavy pieces of ordnance at the East St. Louis Rolling Mill, where it was tested in all forms before used to break them. This mixture is of a deep bluish color, resembling mud, about the consistency of putty. It is put into a hole drilled for the purpose, wetted and tamping or covering of any kind except a handful of fire clay to keep it in place; it is fired by a fuse terminating in a copper cap made especially for the purpose. When lighted with a match it burns like wet powder, and the danger of its use is even much less than by ordinary powder. The *Lithofracteur* is said to have from two to three times the force of nitro-glycerine, and twenty times that of gunpowder.

IT is denied that the legal tender question is involved directly in any case before the Supreme Court. The legal-tender question, as a professional friend informs the Philadelphia *Ledger*, was involved, at least as directly, in at least two cases known other cases decided in the last two years at Washington, and now in print, yet there being other grounds on which those cases could as well be decided, decision on the legal-tender point was avoided; and it was always by a bare majority, until the case of Hepburn vs. Griswold presented the point in a form pure and simple, when it could no longer be avoided and had to be decided. And the reasons of this friend, who is a lawyer of high standing, decide a great question of Constitutional law.

GEN. ROSECRANS, who is mixed up in some railroad speculations in Mexico, has written a letter wherein he says that the United States should assist that country to develope herself. He says the shipping, commercial and manufacturing interests of our own country, and of the world, must favor the development which promises to make Mexico an increased and paying consumer and customer. Just at present our people have about as much on their hands in developing their country as they can well attend to. As a part of the plan of attention to Mexico some time or other will receive attention; but this will not suit Gen. Rosecrans's objects.

THE Wisconsin Legislature has fallen into evil ways. Notably in passing an act for the consolidation of four to five parties of Northern and Northwestern roads as lie in that State, for the purpose of perpetuating a majority in their interest two years longer than they were electable. Vandervilt is said to be at the bottom of the operation, for a purpose no doubt similar to the one which led to this species of legislation in Pennsylvania and New York. Precisely what next will be invented to count stockholders in the interest of the public remains to be seen, but Jim Fisk and his ilk will answer when it suits them to do so.

JACK REAL, the murderer, of officer Smedley, has been "interviewing" Jack Reynolds, the Townsend murderer, in New York. Both are condemned to die, but Reynolds will be hung on the 29th of April and Real will have a reprieve until he is not being hanged. The interview between the two murderers is unique if not edifying. Real has hopes of a further reprieve if not an escape from execution, but assures Reynolds that he will certainly be hung, and exhorts the latter to prepare for death. But Reynolds is obdurate and stolid, but admits that he is trying to "get good." Real's amiability, however, is based on a hope of temporal "salvation."

WHILE Gen. Thomas could not boast, as it is the habit of Virginians, that the blood of Pocahontas coursed in his veins, he could with entire truth claim that the blood of an heroic ancestry came to him by maternal decent. His father was an English decent, on more maternal of Welsh origin, while his mother, Elizabeth Rochelle, was of an old Huguenot family. What is better than all, the noble stock has been ennobled. He was a man of worth, and honored the noblest ancestry. Like Washington, whom in many things he so much resembled, he died childless.

IT has been ascertained that the number of persons on the City of Boston, concerning which the last hope has died out, was one hundred and fifty-five. Seventy-one were of the crew, and one hundred and seven passengers. Of the latter fifty-five were cabin and fifty-two steerage passengers. Besides several military officers, there were on board a considerable number of the leading business men of Halifax. The steerage passengers were chiefly from New York and included several families. The City of Boston left Halifax on the 25th of January.

GEN. JAMES A. EKIN, Deputy Quartermaster General, and Superintending Quartermaster of changes of residence, tendered his resignation as a member of the Board of Directors of the Joint Stock Company of the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington, and has received a flattering response from Hon. S. P. Chase, the President of the Board, who says: "Every member of it, I am sure, will join me in thanks for your faithful services as a member of the Board, and in sincere regret that, being ordered to military duty in Texas, you are obliged to terminate your connection with us."

A NEW YORK letter says: Merchants continue to complain of the backwardness of the spring trade; not one particular branch, but all. The sales of the week ending the 26th ult. were small, while Southern orders, as a general thing, are said to be much under the liberal mark which the profitable cotton crop seemed to warrant. Many are inclined to attribute the existing stagnation to the uncertainty which attaches to the future, as the result of the various financial measures pending in Congress, but whatever the cause, there can be no gainsaying the fact, which is visible on every side.

PRIVATE information concerning the Suez Canal, hints at a great disappointment in the practical working of the gigantic experiment. It will pay no profit to the inventors, and will cost more than its income to keep it in working order. The canal fills so easily with the sand and other loose drift that the draught is constantly lessening. The last report from Cairo, under date of March 4, gave us the startling intelligence that a British steam-ship had been for some weeks aground in the canal, and was likely to stick there forever.

A "CUBAN LEAGUE" has been formed in New York, which numbers among its members many prominent men of that city. A preliminary meeting was held at the Astor House on Tuesday night to make preparations for a grand public demonstration in favor of Cuban independence on Tuesday next. Among the speakers chosen for the occasion are General Banks, Congressman Fitch, of Nevada, Mayor Hall, John Mitchell, Horace Greeley, Richard O'Gorman, Cassius M. Clay, Gov. Hoffman and others.

A DECISION has recently been given in the Superior Court of Buffalo, on a case of usury. The decision is to the effect that congress, in constitutional power to create national banks, and that as the national banks derive their existence from the general Government, they are not amenable to any State laws regulating a rate of interest, but may discount paper on such terms as may be prescribed by Congress, being subject to any penalties the latter may impose for the infraction of any usury laws enacted by it.

THE debate on the St. Domingo treaty is in Executive Session, which is supposed to be secret—a fiction which is dispelled by the fact that all that is necessary to know of the speeches is published next morning. When the Executive Session feature of our government was invented, the "special" reporter was not known, and one purpose was to make the mode for keeping the people in the dark as to action. We doubt if the Senate would find itself equal to the occasion should it undertake it.

IT may serve to quiet the apprehensions of those living contiguous to steam boilers to know that since the appointment of the present inspector not a single boiler has exploded that has passed his inspection. The "red tape" of the law authorizing the appointment of such an officer has been abundantly vindicated, and the duty of every citizen who is appreciative of the safety of a boiler becomes apparent.

THE above fact from the Philadelphia *Press* carries with it its own comment. Every city should have its boiler inspector, but above all others Pittsburgh should have such an officer, for here nearly every square contains a number of steam boilers.

THE Washington *Star* corrects the impression that generally prevails, that the circular issued by Boutwell, on January 24, giving notice that all interest coupons would be paid on presentation at the proper offices sixty days before the maturity thereof, until otherwise ordered, upon a rebate of six per cent. per annum, for the period of the unexpired term of interest falling due about that time, and is now inoperative. Such is not the case, as the circular is still in force, and applies to all payments of interest.

SO frequent of late have incendiary fires become, that the Philadelphia *Inquirer* recommends the application of the Maryland law, which provides that persons convicted of deliberately and wilfully setting fire to any house during the night, with the knowledge that it is occupied by human beings, shall suffer capital punishment.

THE Captain General of Cuba has issued a circular rebuking his subordinates for lying. Considering how many times he has declared that the revolution was on its last legs, and would in the next ten days be crushed, probably he might with propriety take some portion of the admonition to himself.

A STEEL DISCOVERY.

Important if True—Another Revolution.

It is asserted on good authority that a large deposit of iron ore of a very peculiar nature has been recently opened up in York county, Pennsylvania. This ore, we are informed upon good authority, has the quality of turning pig iron into good merchantable steel, by simple mixture and manipulation with the pig iron in a puddling furnace of the ordinary construction. The chemical analysis of the ore shows the presence of considerable quantities of manganese, silicon and aluminium with the iron. The ore is soft and friable in the bed, so much so that it can be mined with the spade, but upon exposure to the atmosphere it soon hardens. Professor Lesley, who has examined the ore bed, estimates the contents at 17,000,000 tons. For a few months past the discovery has made quite a stir among the iron furnaces and rolling mills of our State and Maryland, and there is quite a strong desire to know more of a matter that seems to promise such important results. The ore, as we are informed, has been tested in the presence of experienced manufacturers, in the "Abbott" rolling mills, in Baltimore; the "Cambria" iron works, at Johnstown, Pa.; the "Lochiel" iron works, near Harrisburg; the "Tamaqua" rolling mills; "Coleman, Rahm & Co.'s" works at Pittsburgh; the "Alliance" rolling mills, at Alliance, Ohio, and at other places, and in all cases it has been shown to possess the remarkable quality claimed for it. The steel produced during these tests was generally used for making steel-tapped rails, and one of these bars, made at Pittsburgh was shown to possess a tensile strength of 112,500 pounds to the square inch of cross section.

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